

AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL RESULTS  
2020 - 2021

Compiled by Doug.Butcher

**The saga continues further**

**please follow my research into the 2020's.**

Full Internationals shown as **BOLD**

2020					
Date	Place	Teams	Score		Tournament
Matches scheduled for 2020 were cancelled because of the Covid-19 virus.					

2021						
Date	Place	Teams		Score		Tournament
3-Jun	Kuwait City	<b>Kuwait</b>	<b>Australia</b>	0-3		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 2nd. Round, Group B
7-Jun	Kuwait City, Kuwait	<b>Chinese Taipei</b>	<b>Australia</b>	1-5		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 2nd. Round, Group B
11-Jun	Kuwait City, Kuwait	<b>Nepal</b>	<b>Australia</b>	0-3		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 2nd. Round, Group B
15-Jun	Kuwait City, Kuwait	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>Australia</b>	0-1		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 2nd. Round, Group B
2-Sep	Doha, Qatar	<b>People's Republic of China</b>	<b>Australia</b>	0-3		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B
7-Sep	Hanoi, Vietnam	<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>Australia</b>	0-1		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B
7-Oct	Doha, Qatar	<b>Oman</b>	<b>Australia</b>	1-3		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B
12-Oct	Saitama, Japan	<b>Japan</b>	<b>Australia</b>	2-1		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B
11-Nov	Parramatta	<b>Australia</b>	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	0-0		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B
16-Nov	Sharjah, United Arab Emirates	<b>People's Republic of China</b>	<b>Australia</b>	1-1		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B

2022						
Date	Place	Teams		Score		Tournament
27-Jan	Melbourne	<b>Australia</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>	4-0		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B
1-Feb	Muscat	<b>Oman</b>	<b>Australia</b>	2-2		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B
24-Mar	Sydney	<b>Australia</b>	<b>Japan</b>	0-2		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B
29-Mar	Jeddah	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>Australia</b>	1-0		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B
1-Jun	Al Wakrah, Qatar	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>Australia</b>	1-2		
7-Jun	Al Rayyan, Qatar	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	<b>Australia</b>	1-2		World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 4th Round (3rd. place play-off from 3rd. Round Groups A and B)
13-Jun	Al Rayyan, Qatar	<b>Peru</b>	<b>Australia</b>	0-0	Australia won 5-4 penalties	World Cup Intercontinental Play-off
22-Sep	Brisbane	<b>Australia</b>	<b>New Zealand</b>	1-0		
25-Sep	Auckland	<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>Australia</b>	0-2		
22-Nov	Al Wakrah, Qatar	<b>France</b>	<b>Australia</b>	4-1		World Cup Finals, Group D
26-Nov	Al Wakrah, Qatar	<b>Tunisia</b>	<b>Australia</b>	0-1		World Cup Finals, Group D
27-Nov	Al Wakrah, Qatar	<b>Denmark</b>	<b>Australia</b>	0-1		World Cup Finals, Group D
3-Dec	Al Rayyan, Qatar	<b>Argentina</b>	<b>Australia</b>	2-1		World Cup Finals, Round of 16

**2020**

**International matches were cancelled**

**because of the Covid-19 virus**

2021

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 2nd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
3rd. June 2021, 17.00			Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, Kuwait City, Kuwait			Fine			39C		played behind closed doors		
Kuwait..0 v. Australia..3													
half time, Kuwait..0 v. Australia..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
22	GK	Sulaiman Abdulghafoor					1	GK	Mathew "Mat" Ryan				
13	MF	Fahad Hammoud Al-Rashidi				75	8	DF	Ryan McGowan				
15	DF	Hamad Al-Qallaf					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
11	MF	Fahad Al-Ebrahim Al-Ansari		22		84	2	DF	Milos Degenek				
4	MF	Khaled Mohamed Ibrahim Hajiah					3	DF	Fran Karačić				
5	MF	Fahad Al-Hajeri					5	MF	James Holland				64
3	MF	Ahmad Al-Dhefiri					7	FW	Mathew Leckie ( c )	1			78
10	MF	Shabaib Al-Khaldi					6	FW	Martin Boyle				
8	MF	Fawaz Al-Otaibi				61	22	MF	Jackson Irvine	24			
9	MF	Bandar Al-Salama				62	11	FW	Awer Mabil				74
16	FW	Mubarak Al-Faneni				74	10	MF	Ajdin Hrustić	66			83
SUBSTITUTES													
17	FW	Bader Ahmed Al-Mutawa				61	13	MF	Kenneth Dougall				64
7	FW	Eid Naser Al-Rashedi				62	20	FW	Christopher "Chris" Ikonomidis				74
20	FW	Yousef Nasser Al-Salman				74	15	FW	Mitchell Duke				78
12	MF	Hamad Al-Harbi				75	21	MF	Riley McGree				83
6	MF	Mohammad Al-Huwaidi				84	17	MF	Denis Genreau				
1	GK	Khaled Al-Rashidi					18	GK	Daniel Vuković				
14	MF	Mahdi Dashti					19	FW	Jamie MacLaren				
2	DF	Sami Al-Sanea					12	GK	Lawrence Thomas				
21	MF	Abd Al-Mohsen Al-Turkmani					4	DF	Rhyan Grant				
19	FW	Ahmad Jaber Ali H. Zanki					23	DF	Ruon Tongyik				
23	GK	Saud Al-Qenaie					14	FW	Brandon Borello				
18	MF	Hussain Ali Mohsin											
Team Coach		Andres Carrasco					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Jumpei Iida (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Osamu Nomura (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Yosuke Takabe (Japan)											

Sulaiman Abdulghafoor is also shown as Sulaiman Abdulghafour, Saud Al-Qenaie is also shown as Saud Al-Jenaie, Bandar Al-Salama is also shown as Bandar Al-Salamah.  
Mubarak Al-Faneni is also shown as Mubarak Al-Faneeni, Eid Al-Rashedi is also shown as Eid Al-Rashidi, Mohammad Al-Huwaidi is also shown as Mohammad Al-Hwedi,  
Mahdi Dashti is also shown as Mehdi Dashti,

match report from Football Australia

The Socceroos marked their long-awaited return to the international stage in style, cruising to a 3-0 victory over Kuwait in Friday morning's (AEST) first FIFA World Cup Qualifier in 567 days.

It took Australia less than a minute to break the deadlock as Mathew Leckie headed home 55 seconds in, before goals to Jackson Irvine and Ajdin Hrustic secured the scoreline beyond doubt.

The result cemented the Socceroos' position on top of Group B of the Asian FIFA World Cup Qualifiers, extending their lead at the summit to five points with three left matches to play.

Graham Arnold's side wasted no time in stamping their authority on the contest, with the opening goal arriving courtesy of their captain.

From the second phase of an Ajdin Hrustic corner, Martin Boyle floated a ball into the area for Leckie to confidently nod home his third goal in as many international games.

The Socceroos continued to press forward as Boyle nearly turned goalscorer himself, flashing a long-range strike wide of the mark 13 minutes in.

The Hibernian winger was offered a golden opportunity ten minutes later, as Hrustic was tripped up in the box - resulting in a Socceroos penalty.

Boyle stepped up and saw his initial effort palmed away by Sulaiman Abdulghafoor, only for his club teammate Jackson Irvine to be on the spot to tap home his sixth Socceroos goal.

Debutant Fran Karacic (cap #607) impressed during the first half of his Socceroos career, as did fellow fullback Aziz Behich - who went close with a volley late in the opening stanza.

However the Turkey-based defender's effort would drift wide of the mark, ensuring that Australia's advantage remained 2-0 at the interval.

After a relatively quiet start to the second half, Maty Ryan was forced into his best save of the evening on the hour mark as he strongly kept out Shabaib Al-Khaldi's effort at the front post.

65 minutes in, Kenny Dougall was introduced off the bench, becoming Socceroos cap #608. Seconds later, the milestones continued to flow as Hrustic registered his first international goal in outstanding fashion.

The Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder extended Australia's advantage to three as he curled home a stunning set-piece that nestled in the back of the net off the inside of the post.

With a goal and assist to his name on his Socceroos starting debut, Hrustic would make way inside the final ten minutes as he was replaced by the third debutant of the evening, Riley McGree (cap #609).

Chris Ikonimidis, who was introduced alongside Dougall, went close with a powerful strike in the 90th minute that was kept out well by Abdulghafoor.

The Kuwait goalkeeper's stop meant that Australia would have to settle for a 3-0 triumph - an identical scoreline to last time the two nations met in the Middle East back in September 2019.

Australia team vs Kuwait: 1. Mathew RYAN (GK), 2. Milos DEGENEK, 3. Fran KARACIC, 5. James HOLLAND (13. Kenneth DOUGALL 65'), 6. Martin BOYLE, 7. Mathew LECKIE (15. Mitchell DUKE 75'),

8. Ryan MCGOWAN, 10. Ajdin HRUSTIC (21. Riley MCGREE 83'), 11. Awer MABIL (20. Chris IKONOMIDIS 65'), 16. Aziz BEHICH, 22. Jackson IRVINE

Substitutes: 4. Rhyen GRANT, 9. Jamie MACLAREN, 12. Lawrence THOMAS (Gk), 14. Brandon BORRELLO, 17. Denis GENREAU, 18. Daniel VUKOVIC (Gk), 19. Harry SOUTTAR, 23. Ruon TONGYIK

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 2nd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
7th. June 2021, 17.00			Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, Kuwait City,				Fine			37C		played behind closed	
Chinese Taipei..1 v. Australia..5													
half time, Chinese Taipei..0 v. Australia..3													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
23	GK	Shin Shin-An					18	GK	Daniel Vuković				
6	DF	Chen Wei-chuan		26			4	DF	Rhyan Grant				
3	DF	Chen Ting-yang					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury ( c )	41			
16	MF	Komori Yoshitaka				47	23	DF	Curtis Good				
22	MF	Chen Jui-chieh				80*	19	DF	Harry Souttar	11			
5	MF	Cheng Hao					13	MF	Kenneth Dougall				64
8	MF	Emilio Estevez Tsai				67*	21	MF	Riley McGree				74
15	MF	Gao Wei-Jie	62			67	5	MF	Denis Genreau				86
11	FW	Wu Chun-ching ( c )				80	15	FW	Mitchell Duke	46, 84			
14	FW	Chen Chao-an					9	FW	Jamie MacLaren	27			74*
20	FW	Pai Shao-yu					14	FW	Brandon Borello				63
SUBSTITUTES													
19	DF	Tu Shao-chieh				47	17	FW	Christopher "Chris" Ikonomidis				63
9	FW	Li Mao				67	2	MF	Connor Metcalfe				64
7	FW	Lin Ming-Wei				67*	10	MF	Ajdin Hrustić				74
17	DF	Hsu Heng-pin				80	11	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				74*
4	DF	Liang Meng-xin				80*	8	DF	Ruon Tongyik				86
21	DF	Hsieh Peng-long					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
10	MF	Hsu Yi					12	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
13	MF	Lin Chang-lun					3	DF	Fran Karačić				
1	GK	Pan Wen-Chieh					22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
12	MF	Tsai Meng-Cheng					1	GK	Lawrence Thomas				
18	GK	Tuan Hsuan					6	FW	Martin Boyle				
2	DF	Wang Ruei					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
Team Coach		Vom Ca-Nhum					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Saoud Al-Athbah ( Qatar )											
Assistant Referee 1		Alshammari Zaid (Saudi Arabia)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mohamed Jaafar Mohamed Salman (Bahrain)											

Emilio Estevez Tsai is also shown as Cai Lijing.



match report from Football Australia

The Socceroos secured six-straight international victories for the first time in 20 years as they maintained their perfect record in Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup™ Qualifying with a 5-1 victory over Chinese Taipei on Tuesday morning (AEST).

Following up from a 3-0 victory over hub hosts Kuwait on their international return four days ago, Graham Arnold made eleven changes to the Australian lineup who secured victory thanks to four different goalscorers. Harry Souttar opened the scoring before Jamie Maclaren converted from the spot and Trent Sainsbury added a header of his own.

The second half saw the Socceroos score inside 30 seconds through Mitch Duke, before their opponents pulled one back on the hour mark through Gao Wei-Jie and Duke tapped home his brace late on.

A-League-based trio Denis Genreau (Socceroos cap #610), Connor Metcalfe (Socceroos cap #611) and Ruon Tongyik (Socceroos cap #612) were handed their international debuts as Australia advanced within one win of guaranteed qualification for the third phase of Asian qualifying.

After a couple of early chances floated narrowly wide from Brandon Borrello and Genreau, the Socceroos opened the scoring against Chinese Taipei through a familiar source.

Harry Souttar, who scored a brace last time these nations met, rose highest off a Riley McGree corner to nod home the first goal of the evening inside 11 minutes.

15 minutes later, another player whose last international goal came against Chinese Taipei doubled Australia's advantage from the spot as Jamie Maclaren was brought down in the area and hammered home his subsequent spot kick.

The Socceroos so nearly doubled their advantage immediately, striking the woodwork twice in a minute through McGree and Borrello.

They did find their third in the 41st minute, as another corner from the Birmingham City midfielder this time fell to captain Sainsbury, who headed home at the far post.

Less than 30 seconds into the second half, Australia found their fourth as debutant Genreau linked up nicely with Borrello, who lofted in a threatening delivery for Duke to flick home at the front post.

The away side pulled one back after 61 minutes, as a well-orchestrated cut-back towards debutant Gao Wei-Jie was rocketed into the top right corner - leaving Danny Vukovic with no chance.

But with five minutes to play, Australia capped off a solid performance with Duke's second and their fifth, as the Western Sydney Wanderers striker latched onto a Nikita Rukavystya lay-off to tap home into an empty net.

Australia 5 (Souttar 11', Maclaren 27', Sainsbury 41', Duke 46', 84')

Chinese Taipei 1 (Wei-Jie 62')

Venue: Jaber Al-Hamad Stadium, Kuwait City, Kuwait

Australia Starting XI: 18. Danny VUKOVIC (GK), 4. Rhyan GRANT, 5. Denis GENREAU (8. Ruon TONGYIK 84'), 9. Jamie MACLAREN (11. Nikita RUKAVYTSYA 75'), 13. Kenneth DOUGALL

(2. Connor METCALFE 62'), 14. Brandon BORRELLO (17. Christopher IKONOMIDIS 62'), 15. Mitchell DUKE, 19. Harry SOUTTAR, 20. Trent SAINSBURY (C), 21. Riley MCGREE (10. Ajdin HRUSTIC 74'), 23. Curtis GOOD

Substitutes: 1. Lawrence THOMAS (Gk), 3. Fran KARACIC, 6. Martin BOYLE, 7. Mathew LECKIE, 12. Andrew REDMAYNE (Gk), 16. Aziz BEHICH, 22. Jackson IRVINE

Yellow cards: Nil

Red cards: Nil

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 2nd. Round, Group B														
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
11th. June 2021, 14.00			Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, Kuwait City,				Fine			39C		played behind closed		
Nepal..0 v. Australia..3														
half time, Nepal..0 v. Australia..2														
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	
START LIST														
16	GK	Kiran Kumar Chemjong Limbu ( c )					12	GK	Andrew Redmayne				83	
4	DF	Ananta Tamang					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					
6	DF	Suman Aryal					2	DF	Milos Degenek					
5	DF	Gautam Shrestha					19	DF	Harry Souttar					
23	DF	Rohit Chand Thakuri			45		3	DF	Fran Karačić	38				
8	MF	Bishal Rai				90+2	7	FW	Mathew Leckie ( c )	6			62	
9	MF	Sunil Bal				46	6	FW	Martin Boyle	57			72	
12	MF	Arik Bista				90+1*	22	MF	Jackson Irvine					
11	MF	Pujan Uparkoti					10	MF	Ajdin Hrustić				83*	
18	FW	Nawayug Shrestha				61	14	MF	Connor Metcalfe					
13	FW	Suman Lama				90+1	15	FW	Mitchell Duke				62*	
SUBSTITUTES														
14	MF	Anjan Bista				46	9	FW	Jamie MacLaren				62	
15	FW	Manish Dangi				61	13	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				62*	
19	MF	Ayush Ghalan				90+1	11	FW	Awer Mabil				72	
21	FW	Kamal Thapa				90+2	18	GK	Lawrence Thomas				83	
20	MF	Suraj Jeu Thakuri				90+1*	23	DF	Ruon Tongyik				83*	
2	DF	Dinesh Rajbanshi					17	FW	Christopher "Chris" Ikonomidis					
7	FW	Abhishek Rijal					5	MF	James Holland					
17	MF	Santosh Tamang					1	GK	Mathew "Mat" Ryan					
10	FW	Aashish Lama					4	DF	Rhyan Grant					
1	GK	Bishal Sunuwar					8	DF	Ryan McGowan					
22	GK	Deep Karki					21	MF	Riley McGree					
							20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					
Team Coach		Abdullah Al-Mutairi					Team Coach		Graham Arnold					
Team Manager							Team Manager							
Referee		Ahmed Al-Kaf (Oman)												
Assistant Referee 1		Abu Bakar Al-Amri (Oman)												
Assistant Referee 2		Rashid Al-Ghaithi (Oman)												

Bishal Sunuwar is also shown as Bishal Sunar,

match report from Football Australia

The Socceroos sealed a first-place Group B finish and a ticket to the third round of FIFA World Cup 2022™ qualifiers with a 3-0 win over Nepal on Saturday morning (AEST).

Mathew Leckie and Martin Boyle scored on either side of Fran Karacic's maiden international goal, as the Socceroos eased to victory against a Nepal outfit reduced to ten men after Rohit Chand received a red card for fouling Boyle on the cusp of half-time.

The result took Australia out of the reach of Jordan - the second-placed side in Group B - with just one game to play, ensuring Graham Arnold's side progress to the next round of qualification and clinch a spot at the 2023 AFC Asian Cup.

Leckie opened the scoring with six minutes on the clock, rising high over Rohit Chand to send his powerful header past Kiran Kumar Limbu in goal for Nepal.

Connor Metcalfe forced the turnover in midfield, getting the ball to the feet of Boyle who in turn fed Aziz Behich down the left flank to provide the assist for Leckie with a pinpoint cross.

Nepal responded well after falling a goal behind so early in the contest, pressing the Socceroos high with energy and commitment to the cause - but just beyond the half-hour mark the chances began to present for the Green and Gold.

Ajdin Hrustic bent a free-kick on target which Kiran Kumar Limbu pushed around the post for a corner, before Leckie found his way in on goal once more by chopping the ball onto his left side, only for a desperate defensive block to deny the Socceroos skipper's shot on target.

Leckie then combined with Karacic down the right flank to provide the assist for the second goal, receiving the ball from the right-back and skipping past Suman Aryal to cut the ball back to the feet of Karacic who swept home a first-time shot to claim his maiden international goal.

Disaster struck for Nepal on the stroke of half-time when Rohit Chand was adjudged to have dragged Martin Boyle down as the Socceroos attacker burst toward goal.

Boyle was preparing to go one-on-one with the goalkeeper before feeling contact on his shoulder from the chasing Nepal defender and going down, leading to the dismissal which left the trailing side to fight with ten men for the remainder of the contest.

A pair of chances presented to Boyle early in the second half, but the Socceroos forward failed to hit the target with a header off Hrustic's inviting cross or Duke's pass slid into the box, which Boyle struck off his left foot into the side netting.

But in the 57th minute Boyle found the back of the net, tapping home a cross from Jackson Irvine which skipped past three defenders on the way to his path for a simple tap-in from close range.

A deflected Leckie header from a corner routine hit the post in the minutes following Australia's third goal as the Socceroos looked to capitalise on a strong period of dominance.

Hrustic dispatched a number of shots on goal in the second half without managing to write his name on the scoresheet before substitute Awer Mabil did his best to notch an assist from a pair of crosses to both Nikita Rukavytsya and Harry Souttar, which the pair of Socceroos angled on goal with headers only for goalkeeper Kiran Kumar Limbu to keep out with two expert saves.

Nepal managed to stave off the Socceroos' late attacking surge as the final whistle blew with Australia's 3-0 lead intact.

The Socceroos will be in action again on Wednesday, June 16 (AEST) against Jordan - the last of eight second-round qualification fixtures which Australia can end with a perfect record by securing an eighth-consecutive international victory.

Match Details:-

Australia 3 (Leckie 6', Karacic 38', Boyle 57') Nepal 0

Venue: Jaber Al-Hamad Stadium, Kuwait City, Kuwait

Australia Starting XI: 12. Andrew REDMAYNE (GK) (18. Lawrence THOMAS 83'), 2. Milos DEGENEK, 3. Fran KARACIC, 6. Martin BOYLE (11. Awer MABIL 72'), 7. Mathew LECKIE (C) (13. Nikita RUKAVYTSYA 62'), 10. Ajdin HRUSTIC (23. Ruon TONGYIK 83'), 14. Connor METCALFE, 15. Mitchell DUKE (9. Jamie MACLAREN 63'), 16. Aziz BEHICH, 19. Harry SOUTTAR, 22. Jackson IRVINE,

Substitutes: 1. Mathew RYAN (GK), 4. Rhyen GRANT, 5. James HOLLAND, 8. Ryan MCGOWAN, 17. Christopher IKONOMIDIS, 20. Trent SAINSBURY, 21. Riley MCGREE.

Yellow cards: Nil

Red cards: Nil

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 2nd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
15th. June 2021, 17.00			Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, Kuwait City,			Fine			40C		played behind closed		
Jordan..0 v. Australia..1													
half time, Jordan..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
22	GK	Moataz Yaseen Mahjoub Al-Fityani ( c )					1	GK	Mathew "Mat" Ryan ( c )				
17	DF	Salem Al-Ajalin				90	4	DF	Rhyan Grant				90+3
23	DF	Ehsan Haddad		87			16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich		86		
3	DF	Mohannad Khair Alla Ahmed Al-Souliman		71			20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
5	DF	Yazan Al-Arab					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
4	MF	Baha'a Abdulrahman Suleiman				90*	19	DF	Harry Souttar	77	44		
7	MF	Yousef Al-Rawashdeh				67	6	FW	Martin Boyle		5		83
10	MF	Ahmed Samir				74	22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
6	MF	Noor Al-Rawabdeh				90**	13	MF	Kenneth Dougall				72*
9	FW	Baha' Faisal Mohammad Seif					10	MF	Ajdin Hrustić				83*
18	FW	Musa Al-Taamari			87		9	FW	Jamie MacLaren				72
SUBSTITUTES													
14	MF	Ahmed Al-Ersan				67	15	FW	Adam Taggart				72
20	FW	Hamza Al-Dardoor				74	5	MF	James Holland				72*
15	FW	Ali Iyad Olwan				90	11	FW	Awer Mabil				83
13	MF	Ibrahim Mohammad Sami				90*	21	MF	Riley McGree		90+6		83*
8	FW	Odai Al-Saify				90**	3	DF	Fran Karačić				90+3
12	GK	Abdallah Al-Fakhori					12	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
16	MF	Ahmad Daoud Haikal					14	FW	Brandon Borello				
1	GK	Ahmed Abdel-Sattar Nawwas					23	DF	Curtis Good				
19	DF	Anas Bani Yassen					17	FW	Christopher "Chris" Ikonomidis				
2	DF	Feras Yousef Shilbaya					18	GK	Daniel Vuković				
21	DF	Rawad Abu Khizaran					8	DF	Ryan McGowan				
11	MF	Yaseen Al-Bakhit					7	DF	Ruon Tongyik				
Team Coach		Vital Borkelmans					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Kim Woo-sung (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 1		Osamu Nomura (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Yosuke Takabe (Japan)											

match report from Football Australia

The Socceroos concluded their second phase of FIFA World Cup 2022 qualifying with a perfect record after securing a historic 1-0 win over Jordan courtesy of Harry Souttar's sixth goal in five international games.

The result ensured the Socceroos finished with 24 points in Group B and cruised into the third stage of qualifying with an unblemished record and an eighth-straight win in a single campaign for the first time.

In what turned out to be the Green and Gold's toughest test so far, the Socceroos attacked their opponents from the off.

After just four minutes, Jackson Irvine dispossessed Noor Al-Rawabdeh in the middle of the park, and with two defenders breathing down his neck, burst forward towards the top of the penalty area before firing a shot just over the crossbar.

The chance then spurred Jordan on, who pushed forward themselves through Musa Suleiman. The crafty attacker carried the ball from the halfway line to the edge of the box before he was dragged down by Martin Boyle who subsequently picked up a yellow card for the challenge.

While the free-kick did not force Socceroos' goalkeeper Mat Ryan into a save, it did cause concern by sailing just wide of the top left corner.

The midfield battle then took shape and both sides fought for the ascendancy in the middle of the park.

However, the deadlock was almost broken after 26 minutes. In what was almost a carbon copy of the Baha Abdel-Rahman set-piece at the other end of the field, Boyle hammered a free-kick just wide of the top left corner.

The Socceroos had a fantastic opportunity 10 minutes from half-time when Boyle picked up the ball on the half-way line, drove forward towards the edge of the area, cut inside and found his club teammate Irvine in the centre but the midfielder could not direct his shot on target.

Jordan created a chance late on in the first half through a free-kick which was whipped in from the left and created all sorts of problems for Ryan who was able to tip the ball wide before the offside flag came to the rescue of the Green and Gold.

It was a bright start to the second half for Jordan despite some lights being lost in the Jaber Al-Hamad International Stadium due to a power outage in the Kuwait City area.

Although, meaningful scoring opportunities were few and far between and Socceroos' Head Coach Graham Arnold replaced Jamie Maclaren with Adam Taggart and Kenny Dougall with James Holland in the 69th minute.

Trent Sainsbury almost marked his 50th Socceroos appearance with a headed goal as he rose highest from a free-kick some moments later but could not direct the ball goalward.

With 15 minutes remaining, Australia had their best opportunity of the match as James Holland pounced on a loose ball in the box and unleashed a wicked strike that blasted off the post.

But it did not matter as the Socceroos took the lead and broke the resolute Jordan defence through Souttar just moments later. The tallest Australian outfield player ever made it six goals from five matches with a header from an in-swinging Boyle corner.

With Jordan needing at least a point to have a chance of finishing as one of the best five runners up from the eight groups, they lifted the tempo and pressed the Socceroos intensely.

Tempers boiled over as the game drew to a close with Jordan forward Suleiman shown a red card for an altercation with Behich. Despite the heated finish, the Socceroos held on for a memorable victory and set a new record of eight wins in a row.

Match Details:-

Australia 1 (Souttar 77') Jordan 0

Venue: Jaber Al-Hamad Stadium, Kuwait City, Kuwait

Australia Starting XI: 1. Mat RYAN (GK), 4. Rhyan GRANT (3. Fran KARACIC 90+3'), 16. Aziz BEHICH, 19. Harry SOUTTAR, 2. Milos DEGENEK, 20. Trent SAINSBURY, 22. Jackson IRVINE, 10. Ajdin HRUSTIC (21. Riley MCGREE 83'), 13. Kenneth DOUGALL (5. James HOLLAND 69'), 6. Martin BOYLE (11. Awer MABIL 83'), 9. Jamie MACLAREN (15. Adam TAGGART 69')

Substitutes: 12. Andrew REDMAYNE (GK), 18. Danny VUKOVIC (GK), 23. Curtis GOOD, 8. Ryan MCGOWAN, 7. Ruon TONGYIK, 14. Brandon BORRELO, 17. Chris IKONOMIDIS

Yellow cards: Martin BOYLE 5', Harry SOUTTAR 43', Mohannad AL SOULIMAN 71', Riley MCGREE 90+6'

Red cards: Musa SULEIMAN 87'

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
2nd. September 2021, 21.00			Khalifa International Stadium, Doha, Qatar			Clear			23C air		played behind closed		
People's Republic of China..0 v. Australia..3													
half time, People's Republic of China..0 v. Australia..2													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Yan Junling					1	GK	Mathew "Mat" Ryan ( c )				
22	DF	Yu Dabao				46	4	DF	Rhyan Grant				
5	DF	Zhang Linpeng					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				79
6	DF	Jiang Guangtai					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
3	DF	Wang Shenchao		67			19	DF	Harry Souttar				
10	MF	Zang Xizhe				46*	6	FW	Martin Boyle	26			69
15	MF	Wu Xi ( c )					22	MF	Jackson Irvine				79*
13	MF	Jin Jingdao				63	23	MF	Tomas Rogić				87
17	MF	Wu Xinghan				60	11	FW	Awer Mabil	24			
9	FW	Elkeson de Oliveira Cardoso "Ai Kesen"				82	10	MF	Ajdin Hrustić		80		
7	FW	Wu Lei					9	FW	Adam Taggart				69*
SUBSTITUTES													
20	DF	Wang Gang				46	13	MF	Aaron Mooy				69
8	MF	Hao Junmin				46*	15	FW	Mitchell Duke	70			69*
14	FW	Wei Shihao				60	3	DF	Callum Elder				79
19	MF	Yin Hongbo		71		63	7	MF	James Jeggo				79*
18	FW	Zhang Yuning				82	14	MF	Riley McGree				87
16	MF	Chi Zhongguo					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
23	GK	Wang Dalei					21	FW	Daniel Arzani				
21	FW	Aloisio dos Santos Gonçalves "Luo Guofu"					5	DF	Ryan McGowan				
4	DF	Gao Zhunyi					18	GK	Daniel Vuković				
2	DF	Li Ang					17	MF	Kenneth Dougall				
12	GK	Liu Dianzuo					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
11	FW	Alan Borges de Carvalho "A Lan"					12	GK	Lawrence Thomas				
Team Coach		Li Tie					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Ko Hyung-Jin											
Assistant Referee 1		Yoon Kwang-Yeol											
Assistant Referee 2		Park Sang-Jun											

match report from AFC

Australia made an ideal start to their AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to Qatar campaign, powering to a comprehensive 3-0 win over China PR at Khalifa International Stadium on Thursday.

Goals from Awer Mabil and Martin Boyle gave Graham Arnold's side a handsome two-goal lead at the interval before substitute Mitch Duke added a third with 20 minutes remaining.

The win sends Australia to the top of Group B, with a top two finish required to send them to a fifth consecutive FIFA World Cup.

It was nominally Australia's home fixture, but it was an energetic China PR who looked more comfortable in the early stages in neutral Doha, giving the Socceroos early headaches and firing a warning shot when Wu Lei forced the ball into the side netting.

Disjointed and out of sorts for much of the opening quarter-hour, Australia grew in confidence as the minutes ticked by, and they found the opening goal through Mabil after a scramble in the 24th minute.

It was a defender who unlocked the Chinese backline, with Trent Sainsbury's superb lofted pass sending Mabil through on goal, although goalkeeper Yan Junling saved his initial effort before Taggart sent the loose ball back across goal, with the Denmark-based winger making no mistake from point-blank range at the second attempt.

Graham Arnold's side made the most of their newfound momentum, adding a second goal just two minutes later when Martin Boyle latched onto Tom Rogic's pass before unerringly picking out the bottom corner of Yan's net from 20 yards to make it 2-0.

China PR's promising start was now a distant memory as Australia amassed both possession and chances, with Mabil providing no shortage of work for Li Tie's defence, while the towering Harry Souttar kept Wu quiet at the opposite end.

The hour-mark came and went with China PR still searching for their first shot on target, while Australian opportunities continued to flow, with Mabil, Taggart and Boyle all seeing chances go begging within minutes of each other.

A third Australian goal appeared inevitable, and it duly arrived when Duke, just a minute after being introduced off the bench, poked a loose ball into the net after Mabil's initial effort was parried into his path by Yan.

Duke's fifth international goal made the points safe, affording Arnold the opportunity to hand an international debut to left-back Callum Elder, with the match coming to end with Australian goalkeeper Mat Ryan untested throughout the 90 minutes.

Australia will have the opportunity to build on their strong start when they meet Vietnam in Hanoi on Tuesday, while China PR will remain in Doha for what looms as a crucial clash against Japan.

match report from Football Australia

An outstanding performance saw Australia get off to the perfect start in Round 3 of FIFA World Cup qualifying, as they registered a 3-0 victory over China PR.

A clinical display from the Socceroos saw them get the job done against China PR in Doha on Friday morning (AEST).

Goals from Awer Mabil, Martin Boyle and Mitch Duke provided Graham Arnold's side with the perfect platform to begin their final round of Asian FIFA World Cup Qualifiers.

A tense start to the encounter saw the Socceroos have to cope with China's advances who began the brighter of the two sides.

However, Graham Arnold's defence had an answer for all of China's exploits in their half before they went in search of their first chance on goal thanks to Jackson Irvine's effort on 17 minutes.

Irvine's strike was a taste of what was to come as Mabil broke the deadlock for the Green and Gold with his improvised finish from close range, after Martin Boyle's looping cross was parried by China's Junling Yan.

Australia now had momentum on their side and it took just under two minutes before they made it two to the good courtesy of Boyle's effort from just outside the 18-yard area which found its way into the bottom left corner.

Arnold's men were now brimming with confidence as they continued to find space in the final third, with Adam Taggart and Tom Rogic producing the best chances as the first half drew to a close.

The second stanza began in similar fashion, with Australia once again on the upper foot. However, opportunities were at a premium with Taggart's slightly overcooked effort proving to be the only effort of note in the opening 15 minutes.

The in-form Boyle was also continuing to be a menace for the Chinese defence and it was the Scottish-born striker who tested Yan with his strike from just inside the six yard area.

That proved to be Boyle's final contribution as he made way for Mitch Duke; who soon turned goalscorer when he bagged the Green and Gold's third of the contest with just his second touch of the match.

Duke was in the right place at the right time as he bundled home the rebound from Mabil's curling effort.

The Socceroos maintained their stronghold as proceedings wore on while a special moment arrived for Callum Elder who was handed his national team debut after recently linking up with the green and gold for the first time this week.

The final 10 minutes saw Australia continue to frustrate their opponents as they confirmed a highly-sought after clean sheet ahead of their trip to Vietnam.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
7th. September 2021,			My Dinh Stadium, Hanoi, Vietnam			Hot and humid			29C		played behind closed		
Vietnam..0 v. Australia..1													
half time, Vietnam..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
23	GK	Đặng Văn Lâm					1	GK	Mathew "Mat" Ryan ( c )				
3	DF	Quế Ngọc Hải ( c )					4	DF	Rhyan Grant	43			
4	DF	Bùi Tiến Dũng				81	20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
7	DF	Nguyễn Phong Hồng Duy					3	DF	Bradley Smith				56*
16	DF	Nguyễn Thành Chung				76	19	DF	Harry Souttar				
8	MF	Nguyễn Trọng Hoàng					22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
11	MF	Nguyễn Tuấn Anh				46	23	MF	Tomas Rogić				
19	MF	Nguyễn Quang Hải					11	FW	Awer Mabil				
20	MF	Phan Văn Đức				63	10	MF	Ajdin Hrustić				78
14	MF	Nguyễn Hoàng Đức					14	MF	Riley McGree				56
22	FW	Nguyễn Tiến Linh				76*	9	FW	Adam Taggart				66
SUBSTITUTES													
9	FW	Nguyễn Văn Toàn				46	13	MF	Aaron Mooy				56
15	MF	Phạm Đức Huy				63	16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				56*
5	DF	Nguyễn Thanh Bình				76	15	FW	Mitchell Duke				66
18	FW	Hà Đức Chinh				76*	7	MF	James Jeggo				78
13	DF	Hồ Tấn Tài				81	17	MF	Denis Genreau				
10	FW	Phạm Tuấn Hải					5	DF	Ryan McGowan				
6	MF	Lương Xuân Trường					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
2	DF	Bùi Hoàng Việt Anh					18	GK	Daniel Vuković				
17	MF	Vũ Văn Thanh					21	FW	Daniel Arzani				
21	DF	Trần Văn Kiên					6	DF	Callum Elder				
12	GK	Nguyễn Văn Toàn (II)					12	GK	Lawrence Thomas				
1	GK	Bùi Tấn Trường					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
Team Coach		Park Hang-Seo					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Abdulrahman Al Jassim (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 1		Taleb Salem Al Marri (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 2		Saoud Al Maqaleh (Qatar)											



match report from AFC

Australia made it two wins from two in their AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to Qatar Group B campaign after Rhyen Grant's first-half header proved enough to see off Vietnam 1-0 at My Dinh Stadium on Tuesday.

An opening 45 minutes of few chances saw Australia break the deadlock in the 43rd minute through Grant and, despite Vietnam having more of the ball after the interval, the Socceroos were able to see out the game to claim the victory.

The result sees Graham Arnold's Australia move to six points at the top of the standings and leaves the Golden Stars still seeking their first points having lost two from two.

Vietnam went into the game looking to bounce back from their opening-day defeat to Saudi Arabia on Thursday, while the Socceroos were aiming to continue their perfect start after beginning with a win over China PR.

Australia controlled the possession from the off but it was the hosts who had the first chance of note in the seventh minute when Nguyen Hoang Duc burst through the middle before feeding Phan Van Duc, whose heavy touch fell to Nguyen Quang Hai only for the playmaker to slice well wide from inside the box.

post.

But Australia did go in front three minutes before the interval and, unsurprisingly, the goal was created by the left foot of Hrusic. The midfielder's dangerously whipped-in ball bounced up for Grant at the back post and the Sydney FC defender made no mistake in placing his controlled header beyond Van Lam for his first goal for his country.

Park Hang-seo's Vietnam came out with greater intent after the restart and Van Duc called Mat Ryan into action on the hour when his low effort from distance forced the Australia goalkeeper to get down to his left to save.

The Golden Stars had another half chance with 13 minutes remaining when substitute Ha Duc Chinh's glancing header from Pham Duc Huy's corner from the left hit the side netting.

Australia then thought they had wrapped up proceedings four minutes from time but substitute Mitchell Duke saw his effort ruled out for offside, before Duc Chinh went close in the dying seconds as the Socceroos held on.

The two sides will return to action on October 7 when Vietnam face China PR and Australia take on Oman in their Matchday Three fixtures.

match report from Football Australia

The Socceroos continued their winning start to Round 3 of FIFA World Cup qualifying, as they secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Vietnam.

In hot and humid 29 degree conditions in Hanoi, Australia capitalised on their almost 70% possession to defeat Vietnam on Tuesday night (AEST).

A first international goal from Rhyen Grant provided Graham Arnold's side with a record tenth victory in a row.

Australia bossed possession in the opening stages of the match but their good work was almost undone when Vietnamese midfielder Nguyen Quang Hai lofted the first shot of the night over the bar.

Just minutes later, the Socceroos had the ball in the back of the net, but the linesman's flag was raised because the cross rolled out of play before it was poked home from a goalmouth scramble.

After a lengthy VAR check for a possible Grant handball in the area on the half-hour mark, Australia was able to breathe a sigh of relief as the referee signalled to play on.

While Grant almost gave up a penalty at one end, the Socceroos right-back was perfectly positioned to header Ajdin Hrusic's looping cross into the back of the net and hand Australia the advantage two minutes before half time.

A tense start to the second half saw the Socceroos have to cope with Vietnam's advances after they began the brighter of the two sides as they looked to level the score.

Aaron Mooy and Aziz Behich were introduced by Arnold just before the hour mark to ensure the Socceroos kept a firm hold on the game.

With clear-cut chances few and far between in the second half, Mitchell Duke replaced Adam Taggart to provide Australia with a different focal point up front.

Vietnam then pushed for an equaliser, but they could not break down a resolute Socceroos defence.

With four minutes of regular time remaining, Australia had the ball in the back of the net once again as Duke cannoned the ball past Van Lam, but the flag was up for offside.

The final minutes saw Australia continue to frustrate their opponents as they confirmed yet another clean sheet and a historic tenth victory in a row on the road to Qatar 2022.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
7th. October 2021, 21.30			Khalifa International Stadium, Doha, Qatar			Clear			23C air		played behind closed		
Oman..1 v. Australia..3													
half time, Oman..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
18	GK	Faiyz Al Rashidi					1	GK	Mathew "Mat" Ryan ( c )				
2	DF	Mohammed Al Musalami ( c )					4	DF	Rhyan Grant		31		80
17	DF	Ali Al Busaidi		58			16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
21	DF	Abdul Gheifani					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
6	DF	Ahmed Al Khamisi					19	DF	Harry Souttar				
23	MF	Harib Al Saadi					6	FW	Martin Boyle	49			86
19	MF	Rabia Alawi Al Mandhar	28	39		65*	22	MF	Jackson Irvine		78		80*
20	MF	Salaah Al-Yahyaee					23	MF	Tomas Rogić				63*
8	MF	Zahir Al Aghbari				35	11	FW	Awer Mabil	9			
12	FW	Abdullah Fawaz Afrah Bait Abdulghafur				65	10	MF	Ajdin Hrustić				
7	FW	Khalid Khalifa Al Hajri				66	9	FW	Adam Taggart				63
SUBSTITUTES													
4	FW	Arshad Al Alawi				35, 82	15	FW	Mitchell Duke	89			63
16	MF	Omer Fazari				65	13	MF	Aaron Mooy				63*
11	FW	Issam Al Sabhi				65*	2	DF	Fran Karačić				80
9	FW	Abdul Aziz Al Muqbali				66	7	MF	James Jeggo				80*
10	MF	Mohsin Al Khaldi				82	17	FW	Christopher Ikonmidis				86
5	DF	Juma Al Habsi					12	GK	Lawrence Thomas				
15	MF	Jameel Al Yahmadi					14	MF	Kenneth Dougall				
22	GK	Ahmed Al Rawahi					18	GK	Daniel Vuković				
14	MF	Ahmed Al Kaabi					21	FW	Daniel Arzani				
1	GK	Ibrahim Al Mukhaini					3	DF	Callum Elder				
3	DF	Fahmi Durbein					5	DF	Ryan McGowan				
13	DF	Khalid Al-Braiki					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
Team Coach		Branko Ivanković					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Nawaf Ghayyath Shukralla (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 1		Mohamed Jaafar Mohamed Salman (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 2		Abdulla Saleh Al Rowaimi Abdulla Mohsen (Bahrain)											

match report from AFC

Australia extended their winning run to a record 11th match, moving a step closer to Qatar 2022 qualification with a 3-1 AFC Asian Qualifiers win over Oman at Khalifa International stadium on Thursday. Graham Arnold's side looked to have a battle on their hands when a goal from Oman's Al Mandhar Al Alawi cancelled out Awer Mabil's opener before half-time, but second half efforts from Martin Boyle and substitute Mitch Duke made the points safe, and created a new global mark for the longest winning streak in FIFA World Cup qualifying. Alongside Saudi Arabia on nine points, Australia retain top spot in Group B on goal difference, while Oman are now one of three teams six points adrift of the top two after three matches. With 10 consecutive wins under their belt, including one at the same venue last month, Australia looked every bit an in-form side in the opening exchanges, and it took just nine minutes for them take the lead, with Mabil blasting the ball home on the half-volley after Oman failed the clear Jackson Irvine's speculative cross. The Socceroos would have doubled their lead had Faiyz Al Rusheidi not produced a fine fingertip save to deny Tom Rogic on his 50th appearance eight minutes later, but Oman showed their own attacking potency, and it took an even better stop from Mat Ryan to prevent Zahir Al Aghbari from levelling at the other end. Branko Ivanković's side were thwarted on that occasion, but there was nothing Ryan could do to keep out Oman in the 28th minute, with Al Alawi taking a touch to shrug off Harry Souttar before rifling the ball past the Real Sociedad shot stopper from 12 yards. Oman had seized the momentum, but they suffered a blow when Al Aghbari was forced to exit early with an injury, and Ivanković must have been bewildered when Al Alawi looked have met the same fate just moments later, but thankfully their goal scorer recovered sufficiently to continue. Deadlocked at a goal apiece, the game looked wide open at the interval, but Australia started the second half as they did the first, retaking the lead through a close range header from Boyle after Al Rusheidi spilled Adam Taggart's Rogic-crafted initial effort directly into the Hibernian forward's path in the 49th minute. But just as Australia's goal mirrored the first half, so too did Oman's response, with Al Alawi coming close to adding to his tally on one of several occasions where the West Asian side looked threatening in the final third. But it was Graham Arnold's side who made their chances count, with a pair of substitutes, Fran Karačić and Duke, combining to seal the win, with the latter calmly converting the former's low cross in the 89th minute to take Australia a step closer to a fifth successive FIFA World Cup appearance. The Socceroos will now travel east for a blockbuster clash away to Japan on Tuesday, while Oman will meet Vietnam in a match that now takes on added importance if they are to qualify for the global finals for the first time.

match report from Football Australia

Australia has become the first nation to register 11-straight wins in a single FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign after defeating Oman 3-1 at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar on Friday morning (AEDT). Goals from Awer Mabil, Martin Boyle and Mitchell Duke secured a crucial three points for the Socceroos, who sit equal top of Group B alongside Saudi Arabia. With just under ten minutes played, Mabil opened the scoring with the first shot of the game as he pounced on a loose ball in the box and slammed a powerful shot into the net after the Omani defence failed to clear Jackson Irvine's curled cross from the right. As the game resumed, a slip from Irvine in midfield allowed the ball to be played out to Zahir Sulaiman Abdullah Al Aghbari on the edge of the penalty area, who almost equalised straight away as he forced Mat Ryan to acrobatically tip the ball over the bar. Mabil's goal completely open up the match as both sides created a number of chances throughout the opening twenty minutes of the first half. In his 50th match for the Socceroos, Tom Rogic forced a smart save from Faiz Al-Rushaidi in the Oman goal just minutes later. Aziz Behich was afforded space to slip the ball inside for Rogic on the left, who burst into the penalty area and unleashed a powerful shot that Al-Rushaidi tipped over the bar. However, anything that the Socceroos tried, Oman matched. Ryan was again on hand to save Australia from conceding as Al Aghbari pounced on a loose ball on the edge of the penalty area and fired a low driven shot for Ryan to palm away at full stretch. But Ryan could not do anything about Oman finding the equaliser just before the half an hour mark. The Socceroos' seven-and-a-half-hour streak without conceding was broken by Al Mandhar Al Alawi, who showed composure in the box to touch the ball away from Australia's defenders and rifle a shot past a helpless Ryan in goal. Two minutes after being instrumental in Oman's goal and first-half chances, Al Aghbari was stretchered off after a clash with Irvine looked to have seriously damaged the left-winger's shoulder. Both teams probed for a late goal before the break, but it was not to be and the first half ended all square. With all to play for in the second half, the Socceroos once again claimed an early lead. Boyle continued his fine goalscoring form as he headed home a parried Adam Taggart shot from close range. Five minutes later, Boyle was in the action again as he was brought down in the box with a push in the back but the referee and VAR waved away Australia's claims for a penalty. Just after the hour mark, Ryan was called into action by Al Alawi, who nearly doubled his tally and with another equaliser. The Omani midfielder managed to get in behind Harry Souttar in the penalty area after a long ball, but he was not afforded enough time to pull the trigger and Ryan smothered the chance. In a golden opportunity for Australia to double their lead with 20 minutes to go, Mabil almost found his second goal of the match as he found himself unmarked at the back post, but he could not direct his header goalward. Another header went begging ten minutes later, this time it was Duke, who rose above his defender and directed his shot to the wrong side of the post after Fran Karacic expertly found the Fagiano Okayama striker with a superb cross from the right. However, the missed opportunity did not break the confidence of Duke, who with minutes remaining, secured the three points for the Socceroos with a tidy finish inside the six-yard box after he was again picked out by Karacic. Australia travels to Japan for their next match on Tuesday night (AEDT) with the opportunity to seal six huge points that would go a long way towards securing passage to our nation's fifth-straight FIFA World Cup Finals.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
12th. October 2021, 19.14			Saitama Stadium, Saitama, Japan								14437		
Japan..2 v. Australia..1													
half time, Japan..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
12	GK	Shūichi Gonda					1	GK	Mathew "Mat" Ryan ( c )				
22	DF	Maya Yoshida ( c )					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich	86(og)	63		
5	DF	Yuto Nagatomo				85	20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
19	DF	Hiroki Sakai					19	DF	Harry Souttar		90+3		
16	DF	Takehiro Tomiyasu					2	DF	Fran Karačić				89*
6	MF	Wataru Endo					13	MF	Aaron Mooy				62*
17	MF	Ao Tanaka	8				6	FW	Martin Boyle				89
13	MF	Hidemasa Morita		68		85*	22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
15	FW	Yūya Ōsako				61	23	MF	Tomas Rogić				82
10	FW	Takumi Minamino				78	10	MF	Ajdin Hrustić	69			
14	FW	Junya Ito					9	FW	Adam Taggart				62
SUBSTITUTES													
11	FW	Kyogo Furuhashi				61	15	FW	Mitchell Duke				62
18	FW	Takuma Asano				78	11	FW	Awer Mabil				62*
20	DF	Yuta Nakayama				85	7	MF	James Jeggo				82
7	MF	Gaku Shibasaki				85*	17	FW	Christopher Ikonomidis				89
3	DF	Sei Muroya					4	DF	Rhyan Grant				89*
9	MF	Daichi Kamada					14	MF	Kenneth Dougall				
23	GK	Kosei Tani					21	MF	Riley McGree				
1	GK	Eiji Kawashima					12	GK	Lawrence Thomas				
8	MF	Genki Haraguchi					18	GK	Daniel Vuković				
2	DF	Naomichi Ueda					3	DF	Callum Elder				
4	DF	Ko Itakura					5	DF	Ryan McGowan				
21	FW	Ado Onaiwu					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
Team Coach		Hajime Moriyasu					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Abdulrahman Al Jassim (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 1		Taleb Salem Al Marri (Qatar)											
Assistant Referee 2		Saoud Al Maqaleh (Qatar)											

match report from AFC

Aziz Behich's late own goal handed Japan a much-needed 2-1 win over Australia as the Samurai Blue picked up their second victory in Group B of the Asian Qualifiers

Behich bundled the ball over his own line after Maty Ryan struggled to deal with Takuma Asano's looping shot, which came back off the post before being redirected into the Socceroos' goal.

The win earns Japan a FIFA World Cup lifeline after only one win in their previous three matches and came after Ajdin Hrustic had cancelled out Ao Tanaka's early effort with a stunning 69th minute free-kick.

Japan not only close the gap to the Socceroos in Group B to three points after four games but they also ended Australia's record-breaking run of 11 consecutive wins in qualifying for Qatar 2022.

It was no less than the home side deserved in a game dominated by Moriyasu's team and which the Japanese should have sealed much earlier.

Moriyasu's decision to select Tanaka ahead of Gaku Shibasaki in midfield paid off almost instantly, the former Kawasaki Frontale midfielder adding energy into Japan's midfield and he claimed the opener with barely eight minutes on the clock.

Takumi Minamino drew the Australian defence towards him before switching the ball to the right side of the area, where Tanaka had the time and space to slot his shot past the outstretched hand of Ryan.

The Socceroos responded with Tom Rogic seeing his effort deflected over the bar and Shuichi Gonda tipping a looping header from Trent Sainsbury to safety before punching Hrustic's angled shot out for a corner.

Japan, though, looked rejuvenated after their disappointing start to qualifying and should have added to their lead. Junya Ito thumped the ball high over the bar when he had time to do better and Yuya Osako somehow shot wide 10 minutes before the break.

The home side were almost made to rue that miss six minutes later when Adam Taggart picked up possession from Martin Boyle, but the Cerezo Osaka striker's shot was touched onto the post by Gonda while Aaron Mooy's follow-up was blocked by Wataru Endo.

Mooy and Rogic both tried their luck from distance without any joy and Hiroki Sakai headed over the bar at the other end before Australia levelled.

Referee Abdulrahman Al Jassim initially gave a penalty for Hidemasa Morita's foul on Hrustic but, after VAR overruled to award a free-kick, the midfielder curled his set-piece home off the underside of Gonda's bar.

Japan, however, pushed for the winner and, after Ryan was forced into making several saves to keep the hosts at bay, Moriyasu's side finally struck when Asano – on as a substitute for Minamino – hit a shot that came off the post and crossed the line via the shins of the unfortunate Behich.

Japan play Vietnam and Oman in the November window while Australia will face Saudi Arabia and China PR.

match report from Football Australia

Australia's win streak dating back to June 2019 has ended in Japan with a 2-1 defeat to the Samurai Blue at the Saitama Stadium on Tuesday night (AEDT).

Despite a spirited fightback from the Socceroos, an early goal from Ao Tanaka and an own goal with five minutes remaining was enough to sink Australia to their first competitive loss since the Asian Cup in 2019.

In desperate need of a win and with their backs against the wall in qualifying, it was Japan who opened the scoring in the ninth minute.

The breakthrough came from Takumi Minamino's cross from the left which deflected past Aziz Behich and into the path of Tanaka, who found himself free at the back post and made no mistake as he rifled the ball into the bottom corner.

The Socceroos looked to equalise straight away through Ajdin Hrustic, who almost caught Gonda out of position with a near-post shot from a corner routine, but the Japanese stopper was up to the task.

While the Socceroos were patient with their buildup play, Japan continued to display their eagerness to double their lead as they created several dangerous chances.

With 34 minutes played, a golden opportunity went begging for the Samurai Blue to take a two-goal lead into halftime. It was Yuya Osako who dispossessed Hrustic in the midfield and drove towards the Socceroos defence before eventually firing just wide with only Ryan to beat.

Australia's best chance of the first half came just six minutes later as Tom Rogic found Adam Taggart free in the box, but the striker's shot was palmed onto the post by Gonda and Aaron Mooy could not find the back of the net from the follow-up.

Japan came out firing in the opening exchanges of the second half, but the Socceroos were on the front foot through Mooy, who narrowly dragged a shot from 20 yards just wide of the post five minutes after the restart.

Moments later, Minamino was adamant that he had been brought down in the box by Irvine as a ball was fizzed across goal, but the referee and VAR were not interested in his penalty claims.

On the hour mark, Graham Arnold replaced Mooy and Taggart with Awer Mabil and Mitchell Duke as Australia went in search of an equaliser.

Five minutes later, Australia thought they had been awarded a penalty after Hrustic was brought down by Hidemasa Morita on the line of the penalty box, but after a lengthy delay, VAR overturned the referee's decision and awarded a free-kick.

Hrustic then stepped up for the subsequent free-kick and lashed the ball over the wall and into the top corner to hand Australia a much-needed equaliser with 20 minutes remaining.

In desperate need of a win at home to re-ignite their qualification campaign, Japan pushed for the winner and they eventually found it with four minutes remaining.

Takuma Asano's looping cross from the left deceived Ryan, bounced off the post and into Behich, who could not stop it from crossing the line.

While Australia fought to salvage a point in Saitama, it was not to be and the Socceroos' 11 game winning streak came to an end at the hands of the Samurai Blue.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
11th. November 2021, 20.10			CommBank Stadium (Western Sydney Stadium) ,			Heavy rain					23314		
Australia..0 v. Saudi Arabia..0													
half time, Australia..0 v. Saudi Arabia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew "Mat" Ryan ( c )					1	GK	Mohammed Al Rubaie Al Yami				
4	DF	Rhyan Grant					2	DF	Sultan Al-Ghannam				
16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					5	DF	Ali Hadi Al-Bulaihi		62		
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					13	DF	Nasser Al-Dawsari				
19	DF	Harry Souttar				78	17	DF	Abdulelah Al-Amri		57		
6	FW	Martin Boyle				87*	7	MF	Salman Al-Faraj ( c )				
8	MF	James Jeggo					8	MF	Abdulelah Saad Hameed Al-Malki				
22	MF	Jackson Irvine					10	MF	Salem Al-Dawsari				
11	FW	Awer Mabil				66	19	MF	Fahad Al Muwallad Al-Harbi				
10	MF	Ajdin Hrustić				87	23	MF	Mohammed Ibrahim Kanoo				
7	FW	Mathew Leckie				78*	9	FW	Firas Nasser Al-Buraikan				73
SUBSTITUTES													
15	FW	Mitchell Duke				66	11	FW	Saleh Al-Shehri				73
2	DF	Milos Degenek				78	21	GK	Zaid Al-Bawardi				
17	FW	Andrew Nabbut		89		78*	3	DF	Ziyad Al Sahafi Al-Muwallad				
14	MF	Kenneth Dougall				87	14	MF	Ali Al-Asmari				
21	MF	Riley McGree				87*	16	MF	Sami Al-Najei				
23	MF	Gianni Stensness					12	DF	Saud Abdul Hamid				
9	FW	Jamie MacLaren					15	MF	Ali Al-Hassan				
12	GK	Lawrence Thomas					4	DF	Ahmed Sharahili				
5	DF	Fran Karačić					6	DF	Mohammed Al Burayk				
13	MF	Denis Genreau					20	FW	Abdulrahman Al Obod				
3	DF	Callum Elder					22	GK	Nawaf Al Suweiti Al-Aqidi				
18	GK	Daniel Vuković					18	MF	Abdulrahman Ghareeb				
Team Coach		Graham Arnold					Team Coach		Hervé Renard				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Ko Hyung-jin (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 1		Park Sang-jun (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 2		Yoon Jae-yeol (Korea Republic)											

match report from the AFC

Saudi Arabia claimed a potentially crucial point in their bid to reach the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, holding Australia to a 0-0 draw in their AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to Qatar clash on Thursday. Both sides had chances to secure what would have been three priceless points, but Herve Renard's Green Falcons will have emerged the happier after avoiding defeat for the first time on Australian soil. The result ensures Saudi Arabia have reached the half-way point of the Final Round as Group B leaders, while Australia's failure to build on their enviable home record means they remain in second place. Playing at home for the first time in more than two years, the Socceroos began at a searing tempo and intensity, but the visitors responded strongly to avoid offering up any early chances. The driving rain at Western Sydney Stadium made life difficult for both sides in the first half, and while Saudi captain Salman Al Faraj and Australia's Ajdin Hrustic both found themselves on the end of promising chances, neither goalkeeper was tested in a spirited but scoreless opening 45 minutes. Australia seized the ascendancy in the early minutes of the second half and went their closest yet to opening the scoring when goalkeeper Mohammed Al Rubaie Al Yami was nearly caught out by Martin Boyle's low ball across goal.

From there the Socceroos began to make more regular inroads.

Al Yami saved a Mathew Leckie effort before Jackson Irvine missed the target from less than 10 yards moments later at the hour mark, and the shot-stopper produced a terrific double save to keep out Awer Mabil's free-kick, as well as a Boyle strike effort which immediately followed.

None of those efforts rewarded the 25,000 fans in attendance, and the visitors conjured a great chance of their own when the ball fell to Al Faraj 15 yards from goal, but his slightly scuffed effort was kept out by Mat Ryan in a passage of play which saw Socceroos defender Harry Souttar suffer an injury.

The Saudi momentum continued when Salem Al Dawsari shot from a similar range shortly after, but he was unable to improve on his Al Hilal teammate's effort, before Saleh Al Shehri sent a free header mere inches wide of the post with six minutes remaining.

But despite a thrilling second half, no breakthrough materialised for either side, leaving Australia to look ahead to Tuesday's clash with China PR in Sharjah, while unbeaten Saudi Arabia will tackle Vietnam in Hanoi.

match report from Football Australia

After two years on the road, the Socceroos played out a 0-0 draw with Saudi Arabia in front of 23,314 fans at Western Sydney Stadium.

The Socceroos' first match on home soil since October 2019 produced a tight affair between two sides who were desperate to hold their positions at the top of Group B.

While there was a flurry of late chances for both sides, the deadlock was unable to be broken in wet conditions in Parramatta.

It was a frenetic start to the match with the Socceroos pressing high and dominating possession in the Saudi half.

Despite Australia's positive start, it was the Green Falcons who had the first real opportunity to open the scoring within 13 minutes. Saudi Arabia broke down the Socceroos left through Salem Al-Dawsari, who found Salman Al-Faraj unmarked in the box, but Harry Souttar was on hand to slide across and block the shot.

Following that opportunity, the Socceroos were largely comfortable in possession as they looked to break down a resolute Saudi defense.

With minutes remaining in the first half, Boyle found himself free at the back post as he threw himself towards Mathew Leckie's cross from the left, but it proved to be too far out of his reach and the half-chance fizzled out.

Australia enjoyed the better of the possession in the opening half, but they failed to really test Mohammed Al-Yami in Saudi Arabia's goal.

The Socceroos started the second half much like they started the first. Within minutes of the restart, Souttar found Boyle on the right, who took advantage of a slip from the Saudi fullback and drove towards the byline to fire in a cross that deflected towards goal.

While the deflected cross did not trouble the Saudi goal, minutes later, Awer Mabil registered the first shot of the match with a tame near-post effort from the edge of the box.

On the hour mark, two quick-fire chances for the Socceroos went begging. After using his strength to see off the defender, Leckie found himself with time to have a free shot on goal from the left, but Al-Yami was able to palm it away.

Just moments later, Jackson Irvine found himself unmarked on the penalty spot after Mabil squared the ball from the left, but he could not get clean contact as he fired wide.

Pressure really began to mount for the Saudis as Australia smelt blood. After pawing away Mabil's long-range free-kick, Al-Yami sprung to his feet and blocked a goal-bound shot from Boyle.

10 minutes later, Saudi Arabia went down the other end through Al-Faraj. The Green Falcons number 7 burst into the penalty area after beating Trent Sainsbury to the ball, but Mat Ryan was up to the task.

Saudi Arabia looked to have turned the screw as they had another two opportunities within quick succession. The best of which came from Saleh Al-Shehri as his glancing header narrowly brushed past Ryan's far post.

The Saudis ramped up their late game pressure and again, forced another fantastic save from Ryan. This time it was Al-Dawsari, who forced an impressive, one-handed save from Australia's number 1.

Despite an onslaught of late chances, the match finished all square as both sides held their positions at the top of Group B.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
16th. November 2021, 20.00			Sharjah Stadium, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates									1050	
People's Republic of China..1 v. Australia..1													
half time, People's Republic of China..0 v. Australia..?													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Yan Junling					1	GK	Mathew "Mat" Ryan ( c )				
5	DF	Zhang Linpeng					4	DF	Rhyan Grant				83
6	DF	Jiang Guangtai				45	16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
3	DF	Wang Shenchao					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
14	DF	Zhu Chenjie					2	DF	Milos Degenek		90+5		
15	MF	Wu Xi ( c )					6	FW	Martin Boyle				83*
13	MF	Xu Xin					8	MF	James Jeggo				
21	FW	Aloisio dos Santos Gonçalves "Luo Guofu"		41		80	22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
11	FW	Alan Borges de Carvalho "A Lan"				80*	10	MF	Ajdin Hrustić		50		76
		Elkeson de Oliveira Cardoso											
9	FW	"Ai Kesen"					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				77
7	FW	Wu Lei	70(pk)			90+3	15	FW	Mitchell Duke	38			71
SUBSTITUTES													
20	DF	Wang Gang				45	9	FW	Jamie MacLaren				71
17	MF	Wu Xinghan				80	21	MF	Riley McGree				76
16	MF	Ba Dun				80*	11	FW	Awer Mabil				77
18	FW	Zhang Yuning		90+4		90+3	5	DF	Fran Karačić				83
4	DF	Li Lei					13	FW	Nikita Rukavytsya				83*
8	MF	Hao Junmin					3	DF	Callum Elder				
22	DF	Yu Dabao					17	MF	Denis Genreau				
19	MF	Chi Zhongguo					19	DF	Ryan McGowan				
23	GK	Wang Dalei					18	GK	Daniel Vuković				
12	GK	Liu Dianzuo					12	GK	Lawrence Thomas				
2	DF	Li Ang					14	MF	Kenneth Dougall				
10	MF	Zhang Xizhe					23	MF	Gianni Stensness				
Team Coach		Li Tie					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Adham Makhadmeh (Jordan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Ahmed Al Roalle (Jordan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mohammad Mustafa Al Kalaf (Jordan)											



match report from the AFC

Australia missed a chance to shore up their qualification hopes, dropping points for a third consecutive fixture in a 1-1 AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to Qatar draw against China PR on Tuesday.

Graham Arnold's side looked like winners when Mitch Duke put them in front late in the first half, but a desperate Chinese side kept the door ajar on their own Qatar 2022 hopes thanks to Wu Lei's 70th minute penalty. The result takes Australia to 11 points, five adrift of Group B leaders Saudi Arabia, and could be overtaken by Japan later on Tuesday, while China PR's tally of five points means they still have significant work to do if they are to end their 20-year qualification drought.

Australia had made light work of Li Tie's side when they met in September, but they were given much more to think about during the early stages of the rematch.

Wu Lei tried to punish Australian goalkeeper Mat Ryan when he rushed off his line to divert the ball away from Ai Kesen in the 18th minute, but the talismanic Chinese forward missed the target, in a rare chance for the East Asian side.

In contrast, Australia improved as the first half went on.

Ajdin Hrustic had a dangerous free-kick beaten away by Yan Junling, and the Socceroos went ahead seven minutes before half-time, with Martin Boyle's pinpoint cross headed emphatically home by Duke, who rewarded coach Graham Arnold for promoting him to the starting line up with a fifth goal on the Road to Qatar.

Sharp goalkeeping from Yan prevented Mathew Leckie from adding a second before half-time, but Australia's tally of 68 per cent possession gave an indication of their growing control.

The momentum swung sharply in China PR's favour when the Video Assistant Referee spotted a handball from James Jeggo, with Wu stepping up to bring his side level with his 12th goal of the campaign with 20 minutes remaining, and Luo Guofu wasn't too far from curling them ahead just a few minutes later.

Arnold called on attacking substitutes like Jamie Maclaren and Awer Mabil as Australia searched for a winner, but China PR finished the match the stronger, with Ba Dun forcing an important save from Ryan with five minutes remaining.

With the points shared, the result adds extra significance to Australia's clash with Vietnam in late January, while China PR will travel to Japan knowing they must start putting wins on the board if their campaign is to end in success.

match report from Football Australia

Australia's road to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ has been dealt a blow after being held to a 1-1 draw by China in the UAE on Wednesday morning (AEDT).

Mitch Duke's powerful first-half header looked to have the Socceroos on course for a crucial three points in their quest to qualify for a fifth consecutive World Cup.

Duke, who was one of two changes to Australia's starting side from Thursday's 0-0 draw with Saudi Arabia in Sydney, scored his seventh international goal as the Socceroos dominated the first half.

But Graham Arnold's side were made to pay for not taking their chances when China were awarded a contentious penalty midway through the second half to level the scores.

After starting this phase of qualifying with three straight wins, the Socceroos have picked up two points from their last three matches to leave hopes of automatic qualification for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ in the balance.

Eager to bounce back from last week's goalless draw with Saudi Arabia, the Socceroos were quick to put pressure on China and created two excellent chances inside the first 11 minutes.

First Jackson Irvine sliced his opportunity wide after he was found inside the box by Aziz Behich before Mathew Leckie stung the palms of keeper Yan Junling.

While China always looked to pose a threat on the counter-attack, it was Australia who continued to create the most threatening goal-scoring opportunities.

Ajdin Hrustic was next to test the keeper, with his powerful free-kick into a crowded penalty palmed to safety by Junling.

Australia's dominance of possession and territory was eventually rewarded seven minutes before the break.

The dangerous Martin Boyle was the architect, swinging in a pin-point cross from the right which Duke met with a clinical downward header from close range.

It was Duke's fifth goal for the Socceroos this year, including his late strike in the 3-0 win over China earlier in the qualifying phase.

Leckie almost capitalised on a sublime Hrustic cross soon after but was quickly closed down by Junling to keep China in the contest heading to the break.

While scoring chances proved more difficult to come by after the break, Australia looked in control until China were given a lifeline back into the match midway through the second half.

After a lengthy VAR review, the referee adjudged a handball against James Jeggo in the box, with Wu Lei converting the penalty with 20 minutes to go.

Arnold brought on the likes of Jamie Maclaren, Awer Mabil and Riley McGree in the closing stages to try and find a winner but China held on as Australia finished 2021 with a draw.

2022

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
27th. January 2022, 20.10			Melbourne Rectangular Stadium, Melbourne, Victoria (AAMI Park)				Hot and humid, rain in the second half					27740	
Australia..4 v. Vietnam..0													
half time, Australia..2 v. Vietnam..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew "Mat" Ryan ( c )					1	GK	Bùi Tấn Trường				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					4	DF	Bùi Tiến Dũng				
2	DF	Milos Degenek					5	DF	Phạm Xuân Mạnh		24		61
5	DF	Fran Karačić					21	DF	Trần Đình Trọng				
16	DF	Joel King					2	DF	Lê Văn Xuân				46
13	MF	Aaron Mooy				81*	6	MF	Lương Xuân Trường				46**
6	FW	Martin Boyle				81	19	MF	Nguyễn Quang Hải				
22	MF	Jackson Irvine					20	MF	Phan Văn Đức				46*
23	MF	Tomas Rogić	45+2			73	17	MF	Vũ Văn Thanh				
7	FW	Mathew Leckie		45		66	8	MF	Đỗ Hùng Dũng ( c )				71
9	FW	Jamie MacLaren	30			66*	11	FW	Phạm Tuấn Hải				
SUBSTITUTES													
10	FW	Craig Goodwin	72			66	16	DF	Nguyễn Thành Chung				46
15	FW	Mitchell Duke				66*	10	FW	Nguyễn Công Phượng				46*
14	MF	Riley McGree	76			73	14	MF	Nguyễn Hoàng Đức				46**
21	FW	Marco Tilio				81	7	DF	Nguyễn Phong Hồng Duy				61
8	MF	James Jeggo				81*	18	MF	Trần Minh Vương				71
11	FW	Brandon Borello					22	MF	Nguyễn Đức Chiến				
17	MF	Connor Metcalfe					13	DF	Hồ Tấn Tài				
12	GK	Andrew Redmayne					3	DF	Nguyễn Hữu Tuấn				
19	DF	Kye Rowles					9	MF	Tô Văn Vũ				
18	GK	Daniel Vuković					15	DF	Nguyễn Thanh Bình				
4	DF	Rhyan Grant					12	FW	Hồ Thanh Minh				
3	DF	Ryan McGowan					23	GK	Trần Nguyễn Mạnh				
Team Coach		Graham Arnold					Team Coach		Park Hang-Seo				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Ko Hyung-Jin (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 1		Yoon Kwang-Yeol (Korea Republic)											
Assistant Referee 2		Park Sang-Jun (Korea Republic)											

match report from AFC

Australia got back to winning ways in Group B of the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to Qatar campaign following a comfortable 4-0 victory over Vietnam at Melbourne Rectangular Stadium on Thursday. Jamie MacLaren opened the scoring for a dominant Australia after 30 minutes before the impressive Tom Rogic added a second on the stroke of half-time to leave the visitors with a mountain to climb. Craig Goodwin made sure of the three points with 18 minutes remaining and Riley McGree rounded off the scoring four minutes later as the Socceroos secured their first win since Matchday Three to keep the pressure on group leaders Saudi Arabia and Japan. Australia went into the game looking to end a three-game winless run in the AFC Asian Qualifiers and get their quest to finish in the top two back on track, while Vietnam were seeking their first points of the campaign. Just 20 seconds were on the clock when the hosts thought they'd gone in front after Martin Boyle's centre was laid back by MacLaren and drilled home by Rogic, only for the referee to rule the goal out following a VAR intervention as Jackson Irvine was in an offside position. Five minutes later, Mathew Leckie had a wonderful opportunity to open the scoring after being played through by Rogic, but goalkeeper Bui Tan Truong stood tall to block the Melbourne City star's effort from the right side of the penalty area. Leckie then headed debutant Joel King's cross from the left narrowly wide as the 20-minute mark approached before the breakthrough finally arrived 10 minutes later. Once again, Rogic was at the heart of things, with the Celtic midfielder's floated delivery from the left expertly headed home by MacLaren for his seventh international goal and first in the third round of AFC Asian Qualifiers. The Socceroos opened up a two-goal advantage in first-half stoppage time when Irvine fed Leckie, who slipped a neat through ball to the advancing Rogic to lift over the outrushing Tan Truong with a composed finish. Vietnam had a rare sight on goal six minutes after the restart when their new captain Do Hung Dung laid the ball to Pham Tuan Hai, but he fired wide from just inside the box.

The Golden Star Warriors had upped the tempo and came agonisingly close in the 62nd minute when Nguyen Phong Hong Duy centred for Nguyen Cong Phuong, whose powerful attempt from just outside the six-yard box struck goalkeeper Mat Ryan on the shoulder and flew over the crossbar to safety. But the hosts put the result beyond doubt in the 72nd minute when substitute Goodwin, on just six minutes earlier, ran onto Ryan's long ball upfield, broke into the box and then produced a beautifully composed dink over Tan Truong for his first international goal. Another substitute got in on the act just minutes later when Goodwin played to McGree, who created space for himself before drilling home low and hard into the bottom corner from just outside the area as he also opened his account for the Socceroos to complete the scoring. Australia will next travel to Muscat to face Oman on Matchday Eight on Tuesday, while Vietnam will host regional rivals China PR in Hanoi on the same day.

match report from Football Australia

The Socceroos have got their automatic qualification hopes for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ back on track after a convincing 4-0 win over Vietnam on Thursday night. In front of almost 28,000 fans in Melbourne, Australia rediscovered their attacking mojo to snap their three-game winless run in this phase of qualifying and keep the pressure on Group B leaders Saudi Arabia and Japan. Even with coach Graham Arnold forced to watch from his hotel room due to Covid, the home side dominated from the outset with Jamie Maclaren and Tom Rogic both scoring in an entertaining first-half. Substitutes Craig Goodwin and Riley McGree both scored their first international goals after the break to complete the rout to give the side a huge confidence boost ahead of the trip to play Oman next week. With Aziz Behich stranded in Turkey, Sydney FC youngster Joel King made his international debut and was rock-solid at left-back, with Melbourne City's Marco Tilio also earning his first senior cap with a late cameo off the bench. Those who arrived to their seat a little late would have missed a frantic start as the Socceroos had the ball in the back of the net inside 20 seconds through Rogic. But the joy of the fans in Green and Gold was short lived as the goal was chalked off by the VAR after Jackson Irvine had strayed into an offside position as Rogic slammed the ball into the net. The home side's early onslaught was a sign of things to come as the Australians piled on the pressure with Mathew Leckie the next to be denied a few minutes later. Rogic's incisive pass had the Melbourne City attacker clear through on goal but he shot straight at keeper Bui Tan Truong. Leckie was heavily involved in most of the Socceroos' attacks and he headed just wide on 18 minutes from an excellent cross by debutant Joel King. Just when it seemed Vietnam may be about to quell Australia's wave of pressure, the home side made the breakthrough via the head of Maclaren. The impressive Rogic floated an inch-perfect cross to the far post where Maclaren was left totally unmarked and he made no mistake from close range. Rogic then went from creator to scorer in first-half stoppage time, racing onto Leckie's throughball before dinking the ball past Truong to ensure the Socceroos had a comfortable lead at the break. It was Rogic's first goal for Australia since 2019 and a reward for a brilliant display by the Celtic playmaker on his return to the side. Given Australia's dominance in the first hour skipper Mat Ryan didn't have a lot of work to do but the gloveman came up with a huge save on 61 minutes. A flowing move down the left ended with a cross into the path of substitute Nguyen Cong Phuong whose powerful strike drew a superb reflex save from Ryan. Mitch Duke and Craig Goodwin came off the bench immediately after that scare and it was the latter who made it 3-0 less than 10 minutes later. Goodwin raced onto a long ball over the top of the Vietnam defence before calmly lifting the ball over the keeper to put an end to any hope of a comeback by the visitors. Australia weren't done there as McGree also came off the bench to get his name on the scoresheet to complete the scoring and cap a memorable night in the Socceroos' first international in Melbourne since 2017. The Socceroos' attention will now switch to another must-win clash against Oman, with kick-off at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat at 3am next Wednesday (AEDT).

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
1st. February 2022, 20.00			Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, Muscat, Oman				Clear					played behind closed doors	
Oman..2 v. Australia..2													
half time, Oman..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
18	GK	Faiyz Al Rashidi ( c )		14			1	GK	Mathew "Mat" Ryan ( c )				
3	DF	Fahmi Durbein		4			16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
21	DF	Abdulaziz Al-Gheilani				46*	20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				85*
6	DF	Ahmed Al Khamisi					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
10	DF	Omar Al Fazari				46	5	DF	Fran Karačić		63		
16	MF	Mataz Saleh Abd Raboh					13	MF	Aaron Mooy	79			85
14	MF	Amjad Al Harthi				71	6	FW	Martin Boyle				
12	FW	Abdullah Fawaz Afrah Bait Abdulghafur	54, 89(pk)				22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
7	FW	Khalid bin Khalifa Al-Hajri				81	23	MF	Tomas Rogić				62
17	FW	Al-Mandhar Rabia Al Alawi				90+2	7	FW	Mathew Leckie				73
4	FW	Arshad Al Alawi					9	FW	Jamie Maclaren	15(pk)			62*
SUBSTITUTES													
11	FW	Muhsen Al Ghassani				46	10	MF	Ajdin Hrustić				62
19	DF	Mahmood Mabrook Al Mushaifri				46*	15	FW	Mitchell Duke				62*
9	GK	Aiman Dhahi				71	19	FW	Craig Goodwin				73
20	FW	Marwan Marhoon Mubarak				81	8	MF	James Jeggo				85
15	MF	Mohammed Al Amri				90+2	3	DF	Ryan McGowan				85*
1	GK	Ibrahim Al Mukhaini					18	GK	Daniel Vuković				
2	DF	Juma Al Habsi					14	DF	Joel King				
23	MF	Harib Al Saadi					17	MF	Connor Metcalfe				
5	MF	Amran Said Al Hidi					11	FW	Brandon Borello				
22	GK	Ahmed Al Rawahi					12	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
							4	DF	Rhyan Grant				
							21	FW	Marco Tilio				
Team Coach		Branko Ivanković					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Mohamed Abdulla Hassan Mohd (United Arab Emirates)											
Assistant Referee 1		Mohamed Ahmed Yousuf Al Hammadi (United Arab Emirates)											
Assistant Referee 2		Hassan Suqatari Al Mahri (United Arab Emirates)											

match report from AFC

Oman came from behind twice to hold Australia 2-2 in Group B of the AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to Qatar on Tuesday.

It was a result neither side wanted, with Australia's FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualification hopes suffering a blow while third place - which would have meant a playoff spot - is now out of reach for Oman.

With two matches remaining, Australia are four points behind leaders Saudi Arabia, who lost 2-0 to Korea Republic earlier on Tuesday, with the East Asians three ahead of the Socceroos.

Australia, who returned to winning ways after beating Vietnam on Matchday Seven, almost got off to a perfect start when Trent Sainsbury headed home Aaron Mooy's free-kick, only for the effort to be ruled offside.

Oman, needing a win to stay in contention for third place, responded by attacking in numbers.

Their aggression was, however, punished with Boyle beating the offside trap in the 14th minute to collect a long-range cross, only to be brought down by goalkeeper Faiyz Al Rashidi in the box. Jamie Maclaren neatly converted the penalty to give Australia the lead.

Branko Ivankovic's Oman were undeterred and continued with their attacking game but their best chances of the first half came through Abdullah Fawaz and Amjad Al Harthi whose efforts were easily dealt with by Australia 'keeper Mat Ryan.

A poor clearance a minute from the break almost proved costly for Oman but Tom Rogic's strike from inside the box deflected off Matez Saleh's boot, much to the home side's relief.

Oman started the second half on the front foot and tested the Australian defence in the 49th minute when substitute Mahmood Mabrook curled in a cross into the final third, but Muhsen Al Ghassani sent his volley wide.

The West Asians, however, were not to be denied as a counter attack in the 54th minute saw an unmarked Fawaz let loose a strike into the top right corner for the equaliser.

Stung, Australia surged forward with Maclaren and Sainsbury coming close in the 60th and 69th minutes as Oman found themselves pressed back.

The Omani defence crumbled under pressure in the 79th minute when Mooy got at the end of substitute Craig Goodwin's cross, finishing with a superb strike to put the Australians back in front.

Oman, however, were not to be denied a share of the points with Fran Karacic penalised for a foul on Al Ghassani in the box three minutes from time, with Fawaz making no mistake from the spot.

Australia face a must win game against Japan on March 24 while Oman travel to Vietnam.

match report from Football Australia

Australia's hopes of automatic qualification for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ were dealt a blow after being held to a 2-2 draw Oman in Muscat on Wednesday morning (AEDT).

For the second match in a row the Socceroos had an early goal chalked off with the linesman's flag denying Trent Sainsbury who had strayed offside before heading home Aaron Mooy's free kick in the fifth minute.

Australia got their opener ten minutes later when Jamie Maclaren slammed home a penalty after Martin Boyle was brought down inside the area.

Boyle superbly brought down a Jackson Irvine through ball before drawing contact in the box allowing Maclaren to emphatically slam home his seventh goal of the qualifiers.

Tom Rogic went closest to adding to the scores in the opening stanza with his deflected strike from inside the area after a jinking run turned over the crossbar on the stroke of half time.

Oman levelled the scores in the 54th minute through Abdullah Fawaz, who found the back of the net with a well-struck effort from the edge of the area.

Aaron Mooy reinstated Australia's lead in the 79th minute when he slammed home an effort from the top of the box.

Mooy netted his second goal of the qualifiers after Craig Goodwin's initial cross was nodded into his path by knock downs from Martin Boyle and Mitch Duke.

Australia were denied all three points in the 89th minute when Abdullah Fawaz scored his second of the night from the penalty spot.

The home side were awarded the second spot kick of the night after Fran Karacic fouled Muhsen Al-Ghassani inside the area.

Goodwin had the chance to snatch all three points for the Socceroos in stoppage time, slamming his effort into the side netting after Hrustic's cross found him at the back post.

Wednesday morning's result leaves Australia three points adrift of the group's automatic qualification positions with just two games left to play in Round 3 of AFC FIFA World Cup qualifying.

Australia's two remaining fixtures are against the two sides who sit above them in the group - Graham Arnold's men host Japan in Sydney on March 24 before heading to group leaders Saudi Arabia for their final qualifier.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
24th. March 2022, 20.10			Accor Stadium, Homebush Bay, Sydney, New South Wales (Stadium Australia)				Rain					41852	
Australia..0 v. Japan..2													
half time, Australia..0 v. Japan..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan ( c )					12	GK	Shūichi Gonda				
4	DF	Rhyan Grant					16	DF	Miki Yamane				
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					4	DF	Ko Itakura				
2	DF	Milos Degenek					22	DF	Maya Yoshida ( c )				
13	DF	Joel King					5	DF	Yuto Nagatomo		10		64
6	MF	Martin Boyle				84	14	MF	Junya Ito				
19	MF	Gianni Stensness		54		90	17	MF	Ao Tanaka				84
3	MF	Connor Metcalfe		15		46	6	MF	Wataru Endo				
11	MF	Awser Bul Mabil				68	13	MF	Hidemasa Morita				
10	FW	Ajdin Hrustic					10	MF	Takumi Minamino				84*
15	FW	Mitchell Duke				68*	18	FW	Takuma Asano				64*
SUBSTITUTES													
9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				84	20	DF	Yūta Nakayama				64
22	FW	Gbenga "Ben" Folami				90	21	FW	Kaoru Mitoma	89, 90+4			84
8	MF	James Jeggo				46	8	MF	Genki Haraguchi				84*
21	FW	Marco Tilio				68	9	FW	Ayase Ueda				64*
14	FW	Bruno Fornaroli Mezza				68*	1	GK	Elji Kawashima				
12	GK	Andrew Redmayne					23	GK	Daniel Yabuki Schmidt				
18	GK	Danny Vukovic					2	DF	Naomichi Ueda				
5	DF	Fran Karačić					19	DF	Sho Sasaki				
16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich					15	MF	Reo Hatate				
7	DF	Alexander "Alex" Wilkinson					3	DF	Shogo Taniguchi				
17	MF	Denis Genreau					7	MF	Gaku Shibasaki				
23	MF	Kenneth Dougall					11	MF	Takefusa Kubo				
Team Coach		Graham Arnold					Team Coach		Hajime Moriyasu				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Nawaf Ghayyath Shukralla (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 1		Abdulla Saleh Al Rowaimi Abdulla Mohsen (Bahrain)											
Assistant Referee 2		Faisal Alawi Sayed (Bahrain)											

match report from AFC

Japan secured their place in a seventh successive FIFA World Cup™ emerging from a crucial AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to Qatar™ clash against Australia with a 2-0 win on Thursday.

A pair of late goals from substitute Kaoru Mitoma finally rewarded Japan on a night where they peppered the Australian goal, leaving the Socceroos in a precarious position in their own bid to reach Qatar 2022.

The result means Graham Arnold's side will enter the playoffs in June, with wins required over the third placed side in Group A, as well as the fifth placed South American side, if they are to qualify.

Driving rain greeted the players for the latest installment of one of Asian football's great modern rivalries, and it took Japan less than a minute to test Australian goalkeeper Mat Ryan, who held a dangerous 15-yard effort from Takumi Minamino.

With Japan looking dangerous whenever they attacked, the Liverpool forward was a thorn in Australia's side throughout the first half, hitting the woodwork twice, and pulling further effort narrowly wide after tying the Socceroos defence in knots with some fancy footwork, but he was ultimately unable to capitalise despite a string of chances.

Australia had their work cut out defensively but they had the ball in the back of the Japanese net when debutant midfielder Gianni Stensness headed home a corner kick in the 28th minute, only for the goal to be ruled out after goalkeeper Shuichi Gona was impeded by Trent Sainsbury.

Ajdin Hrustic was Australia's main creative outlet, and it was his cross that provided a golden chance for Mitch Duke five minutes from half-time, but the Japan-based forward sent a free header straight into Gonda's path.

Hrustic's impact on the game continued when he had two efforts – a long range free-kick which Gonda parried away, and a curling effort which went narrowly wide from 20 yards – but the Samurai quickly regained a sense of control as the hour mark came and went without a breakthrough.

Hajime Moriyasu's side exerted more and more pressure on Australia as the minutes ticked by, with the hosts struggling to retain any meaningful possession, and substitute Ayase Ueda sending a shot just wide of Ryan's goal with 20 minutes remaining.

The Socceroos tried to change the complexion of the contest by introducing 34-year-old debutant Bruno Fornaroli, but it was Japan who continued to create the better chances, although Minamino's profligacy continued when a lunging Trent Sainsbury blocked a goal bound effort in the 80th minute.

It was Australia who most needed to score, but Japan always looked more likely to, and their reward finally arrived in the 89th minute, with Miki Yamane supplying his former Kawasaki Frontale teammate Mitoma, who calmly beat Ryan from close range.

Mitoma's superb cameo continued when he added a second in stoppage time, slipping an effort under the palms of Ryan as Japan celebrated their sixth win in a row, and another trip to the top tier of world football.

match report from Football Australia

In what was a rainy and cold evening in Sydney, Australia was narrowly defeated 2-0 by Japan.

In front of thousands of vocal Australian fans on Thursday evening on a wet and cold night in Sydney, Australia. It was the Socceroos who played out a heartbreaking 2-0 defeat at Stadium Australia.

In what was an exciting first half shadowed by the wet weather which had disrupted Sydney all day leading up to the Australia v Japan clash, the Socceroos and the Samurai Blue were locked in at 0-0 at half-time.

Kaoru Mitoma netted a late winner for Japan which sent the Samurai Blue into the FIFA World Cup and confirmed Australia's 3rd place finish in the final round of qualification.

Both Gianni Stensness and Bruno Fornaroli impressed on their international debuts for Australia, while both Marco Tilio and Connor Metcalfe put in solid shifts as they both played their second and third game for the Socceroos respectively. Ben Folami also made his debut late on against Japan.

Under treacherous at Stadium Australia, neither Australia nor Japan could instil a dominant period of play inside the first half as chances fell to both the Socceroos and the Samurai Blue.

Japanese Striker Takuma Asano had the first chance in the opening half as he was slipped behind the Green and Gold defence but Australian custodian Mathew Ryan stood strong to deny the 27-year-old who was later deemed to be offside.

Moments later, the Socceroos thought they had the first goal of the evening as Martin Boyle delivered a beautiful ball into the path of Gianni Stensness but Trent Sainsbury was adjudged to have fouled Shūichi Gonda.

Two big chances fell to the way of current Liverpool attacking-midfielder Takumi Minamino as both his headers struck the crossbar and post of Mathew Ryan's goal to the relief of the Australian fans across Stadium Australia.

After a shot was blocked from the Japanese defence, Joel King's shot from distance fell to the feet of Mitch Duke but his effort on goal dribbled past the Gonda's goal to the disappointment of the Australian fans at Stadium Australia.

However, despite Duke and Minamino having the best chances for the Green and Gold and Japan respectively neither side were able to net a go-ahead goal in the first half.

The Socceroos came out firing right away in the second half as Ajdin Hrustic's free-kick from distance stung the palms of Gonda. Then less than a minute later the 25-year-old had a golden opportunity to net his third goal for Australia but his shot glanced wide of the Samurai Blue goal.

Asano was played in the Australian 18-yard box and as the 27-year-old turned and swivelled inside the Green and Gold box, his shot generated little to no power to trouble Ryan but his shot on goal allowed Japan to pile on substantial pressure onto the Australian goal.

On the 68th minute, Socceroo Number #618 entered the field. At 34 years of age, current Perth Glory and A-League Men starlet Bruno Fornaroli entered the fray and he looked to make an instant impact for his new home country.

Late on, Japan had another chance to go ahead in the tie but if not for brilliant defending from Australia on the goal-line, the Samurai Blue would have had the go-ahead goal with 10 minutes to go.

However, it was heartbreak for Australia as a late Japanese counter-attack and cut-back across the Australian 12-yard-line resulted in Kaoru Mitoma slamming home the winner for Japan late on in the 89th minute and the 24-year-old doubled his tally on the evening as he fired home Japan's second after a brilliant run through the Australian defence which sealed Australia's fate.

Australia has one last game remaining in the final stage of FIFA World Cup Qualification as they face Saudi Arabia in five days' time with kick-off set for 5:00 AM AEDT.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 3rd. Round, Group B													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
29th. March 2022, 21.00			King Abdullah Sports City, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia				Fine					50000	
Saudi Arabia..1 v. Australia..0													
half time, Saudi Arabia..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
21	GK	Mohammed Al Owais					1	GK	Mathew Ryan ( c )				
2	DF	Hassan Al Tambakti					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
13	DF	Yaseer Al-Shahrani					2	DF	Nathaniel Atkinson				
6	DF	Mohammed Al-Burayk				88	16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
3	DF	Abdullah Madu				66	19	DF	Gianni Stensness				
10	MF	Salem Al Dawsari	65(pk)				6	MF	Martin Boyle				
7	MF	Salman Al-Faraj ( c )					11	MF	Awer Bul Mabil				73
8	MF	Hattan Bahebri				66*	17	MF	Denis Genreau				82
16	MF	Sami Al-Najei				66**	5	MF	James Jeggo				
23	MF	Mohamed Kanno					10	FW	Ajdin Hrustic				
9	FW	Feras Al-Birakan				88*	9	FW	Bruno Fornaroli				45
SUBSTITUTES													
20	MF	Abdulaziz Al-Bishi				66**	7	FW	Nicholas D'Agostino				45
11	FW	Saleh Al-Shehri				66*	15	FW	Mitchell Duke				82
12	DF	Saud Abdul Hamid				88	21	FW	Marco Tilio				73
4	DF	Ahmed Sharahili				66	3	DF	Fran Karačić				
5	DF	Ziyad Al Sahafi Al Muwallad				88*	22	FW	Gbenqa "Ben" Folami				
14	FW	Abdullah Al Hamdan					13	DF	Joel King				
15	MF	Ali Al Hassan					18	GK	Danny Vukovic				
19	FW	Abdulrahman Al Obud					23	MF	Kenneth Dougall				
17	MF	Khalid Al Ghannam					4	DF	Ryan McGowan				
22	GK	Fawaz Al Qarni					8	MF	Connor Metcalfe				
1	GK	Amin Al Bukhari					14	DF	Bailey Wright				
18	FW	Abdulrahman Ghareeb					12	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
Team Coach		Hervé Renard					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Adham Makhadmeh (Jordan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Ahmed Al Roalle (Jordan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mohammad Mustafa Al Kalaf (Jordan)											

match report from the AFC

Salem Al Dawsari's second half penalty was the difference at the King Abdullah Sports City Stadium as Saudi Arabia sealed the top spot in Group B of the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to Qatar™ with a 1-0 victory against Australia on Tuesday.

The Green Falcons had already booked their place in Qatar 2022 with two games to spare, before being held to a 1-1 draw against China PR last week, while Australia were confirmed to finish third and advance to the playoff regardless of the result. Earlier in the day, they learned they would be facing the United Arab Emirates, who finished third in Group A.

The first chance of the game belonged to the visitors after 12 minutes as Saudi-based Martin Boyle advanced down the right and sent a low cross for Awer Mabil, who beat his marker and connected with the ball, but his finish just about missed the target.

Trent Sainsbury came close to opening the scoring for the Socceroos after he rose highest to head Ajdin Hrustic's cross from a set-piece down the left, but the centre-back's header ended up on the roof of the net.

It took 35 minutes for the home side to threaten as Hattan Bahebri drove forward down the middle and launched an effort from 25 yards out, but goalkeeper Mat Ryan was up to the challenge and made the save.

A minute later, it was Graham Arnold's men who thought they had taken the lead after Awer Mabil sent a fine through ball for Boyle and the Al Faisaly forward looked to have beaten the offside trap from the halfway line before rounding the goalkeeper and slotting home the opener, but upon a lengthy VAR check, Boyle was ruled offside and the goal did not stand.

The hosts started the second half on the front foot, and within eight minutes of the restart they were close again as Yasser Al Shahrani advanced into the byline and floated a cross for Mohammed Kanno, who arrived late to the box and tried to guide a looping header beyond Ryan, but could not aim accurately.

Mabil responded in kind for Australia, testing goalkeeper Mohammed Al Owais from range, but the Saudi goalkeeper produced a fine save to tip it behind.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 65th minute after Sami Al Najei was brought down by James Jeggo inside the Australian penalty area and Al Dawsari stepped up to convert from the spot, sending Ryan the wrong way.

Al Dawsari nearly doubled his tally 12 minutes from time after he received Abdulaziz Al Bishi's pass inside the box and tried his best finish, but Ryan produced a world class save to deny him from close range.

Australia will have a tie against the United Arab Emirates to look forward to in June with the winner facing the fifth placed side from the CONMEBOL qualifiers for a place in Qatar 2022. Meanwhile, the Green Falcons turn their attention to the FIFA World Cup draw in Doha in three days' time.



match report from FootballAustralia

Despite creating some solid chances, the Socceroos suffered a slim 1-0 defeat in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday morning (AEDT).

Graham Arnold made a host of changes from Thursday's clash with Japan, as Bruno Fornaroli and Nathaniel Atkinson earned starting debuts for Australia while Nick D'Agostino made his Socceroos debut in the second half.

After applying plenty of pressure in the first half, Martin Boyle thought he had netted his sixth goal in Green and Gold, but the Scottish-born-Australian was eventually ruled slightly offside in the build-up.

The hosts struck first through a penalty in the 64th minute as Salem Al-Dawsari sent Maty Ryan the wrong way from 12-yards to give the Green Falcons the lead.

Fornaroli and Atkinson both impressed on their international starting debuts for Australia, while D'Agostino put in a solid shift as he made his debut for the Socceroos in the final 45 minutes against Saudi Arabia in Jeddah.

As Arnold opted for a rejuvenated side against Saudi Arabia, the Socceroos looked to get on the front foot early against the Green Falcons at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium.

Pacey winger Awer Mabil had an early chance to put the Green and Gold ahead in Jeddah but the 26-year-old's shot fired agonisingly wide of Mohammed Al-Owais's net.

Boyle was the next to have an opportunity to put Australia ahead in Saudi Arabia when his strike from a tight angle rolled across the face of the Saudi Arabian goal.

Moments later, after having his first chance to take the lead in Jeddah, the 28-year-old was slipped in behind and this time rounded Mohammed Al-Owais to tap home. However, a lengthy VAR check at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium ruled out what would have been Boyle's sixth goal in Green and Gold.

Locked 0-0 at halftime, Arnold opted to bring on D'Agostino to provide further attacking threat for the Socceroos, but the first chance of the final 45 minutes fell to the Green Falcons' tall central midfielder Mohamed Kanno, whose header fell wide of Ryan's goal.

Australia had another chance to net the go-ahead goal as a marauding run from Mabil allowed the former Adelaide United starlet to cut inside on his right-foot and release a venomous strike, which stung the palms of Al-Owais.

Despite all of Australia's impressive attacking play in the first-half, James Jeggo was adjudged to have fouled a Saudi Arabian player in the box, which resulted in Salem Al-Dawsari netting from 12-yards to put the home side in front after 64 minutes.

Socceroos custodian Ryan stood strong late on to deny Saudi Arabia their second, as the full time whistle blew and attention turned toward's June's play-offs in Doha.

The Socceroos will next face the United Arab Emirates on June 7 for a spot in an all-important intercontinental playoff against either Chile, Peru or Columbia.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature	Attendance		
1st. June 2022, 19.00			Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakrah, Qatar								played behind closed doors		
Jordan..1 v. Australia..2													
half time, Jordan..1 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Yazid Abu Layla					1	GK	Mathew Ryan ( c )		90+2		
3	DF	Tareq Jabr Khattab		49		56*	19	DF	Jason Davidson				46
23	DF	Ehsan Haddad		90+3			8	DF	Bailey Wright	40			
5	DF	Yazan Al Arab					3	DF	Fran Karačić				
2	DF	Mohammad Abu Hasheesh					4	DF	Kye Rowles				
4	MF	Baha' Abdel-Rahman Suleiman ( c )					13	MF	Aaron Mooy				62
9	MF	Ahmed Samir				79	23	MF	Kenneth Dougall				46*
8	MF	Noor Al Rawabdeh				80*	11	MF	Awer Bul Mabil	68			87
14	MF	Mohammed Abu Zurayq				56	14	MF	Riley McGree				73
10	FW	Mousa Sulaiman Al Tamari	17			80	7	FW	Craig Goodwin				
15	FW	Ali Ali Olwan				66	15	FW	Nicholas D'Agostino				73*
SUBSTITUTES													
18	FW	Yazan Al Naimat				56	16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				46
19	DF	Abdallah Musallam Naseeb				56*	22	MF	Jackson Irvine				46*
7	DF	Monther Abu Amara				66	5	MF	Denis Genreau				62
11	FW	Mahmoud Al Mardi				79	10	FW	Ajdin Hrustic				73
16	MF	Saleh Rateb Saleh				80	9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				73*
17	MF	Rajaei Ayed Fadel Hasan				80*	6	FW	Marco Tilio				87
20	FW	Hamza Al Dardour					18	GK	Danny Vukovic				
12	GK	Malek Shalabiya					21	DF	Nathaniel Atkinson				
21	DF	Mohammad Mohammad Al Dameiri					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
13	MF	Khalil Bani Attiah					12	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
22	GK	Mahmoud Al Kawamleh					17	DF	Gianni Stensness				
6	DF	Bara Marie					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
Team Coach		Graham Arnold					Team Coach		Adnan Hamad				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Saad Al Fadhli (Kuwait)											
Assistant Referee 1		Ammar Ashkanani (Kuwait)											
Assistant Referee 2		Mahammad Al Shemmari (Kuwait)											

match report from Football Australia

A fresh faced Socceroos side have come from behind to defeat rivals Jordan, with the match minutes crucial, as the side prepares for a do-or-die qualifier against the United Arab Emirates

National team coach Graham Arnold intended to use the friendly match as an opportunity to valuable minutes into his squad, with places up for grabs in the upcoming FIFA World Cup AFC Play-Off next week.

The A-League Men's competition was represented heavily against the Jordanians, with defender Kye Rowles making his international debut, with forward Nicholas D'Agostino, joining Melbourne Victory teammate and 2015 Asian Cup hero Jason Davidson, and Adelaide United captain Craig Goodwin.

Reminiscent of the early covid-era which saw the Socceroo's initial qualifiers taken to Qatar, the match was played behind closed doors in a tense start from both sides, as the new look Aussie lineup attempted to find fluidity and combinations in attack.

That effort was halted early, with Jordanian midfielder Mousa Al Tamari finding the back of the net in the 21st minute, with a stunning long range effort flying past the outstretched arm of goalkeeper Mat Ryan.

Holding their nerve late in the first half, the Green and Gold gradually took back control of the contest, with the wing-back combination of Fran Karacic and Jason Davidson, causing havoc for the opposition, who struggled to match the duo's endurance, transitioning quickly from defence to attack.

The equalising goal in the 40th minute came from the efforts of Davidson and compatriot Craig Goodwin, who pushed forward, forcing their marker to concede a free kick just outside the area. The result however, was far worse for Jordan, as a whipped in Goodwin free-kick was met at the back post by Bailey Wright, who rose above the pack to head the ball past the Jordanian goalkeeper.

After half-time the Socceroos grew in confidence, spurred on by the introduction of established internationals from the substitutes bench, including Aziz Behich and Jackson Irvine, who were brought on at half-time, along with recently promoted France-based midfielder Denis Genreau.

Aaron Mooy almost celebrated his 50th Socceroos cap with a goal, after his free-kick attempt deceived the keeper and the defensive wall, with the midfielder opting to target the narrower far-post, with the effort rattling the post.

However, not long after Mooy's effort, the Socceroos finally got their reward for a strong start to the second-half, scoring the eventual winner in the 68th minute, from the boot of Awer Mabil. Bailey Wright displayed his aerial dominance once again, rising at the back post to meet Goodwin's corner, with only the acrobatics of keeper Abu Layla denying the defender a brace. The deflection bounced favourably this time, with D'Agostino heading the loose ball forward into the path of Mabil, who with his back to goal, flicked the ball above the last man and into the roof of the net. The Australians would have been comfortable in sitting back for the last 20 minutes and preserve their result, yet Arnold's team continued to attack, with the desperate efforts from a Jordanian backline, denying the Socceroos a third goal late in the match. The result is a confidence booster for the entire squad as all eyes now turn to the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday morning (4am AEST), with the Socceroos just two matches away from securing a historic fifth consecutive FIFA World Cup appearance.

World Cup/AFC Asian Cup Qualifying, 4th. Round (3rd. place play-off from 3rd. Round Groups A and B)													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
7th. June 2022, 21.00			Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan, Qatar			Clear			23C air conditioned				
United Arab Emirates..1 v. Australia..2													
half time, United Arab Emirates..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
17	GK	Khalid Eisa Al Mesmari					1	GK	Mathew Ryan ( c )				
3	DF	Walid Abbas Al Balooshi ( c )					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
13	DF	Mohammed Al Attas					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
4	DF	Khaled Ebraheim Alghais Aldhanhani					20	DF	Kye Rowles				
12	DF	Khalifa Khalfan Khairi Al Hammadi					4	DF	Nathaniel Atkinson				
5	MF	Ali Salmin Al Balushi				88	13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
18	MF	Abdalla Ramadan Bekheet Soliman Bekheet				75*	22	MF	Jackson Irvine	53			
14	MF	Abdulla Hamad Salmeen Al Menhali				89*	10	FW	Ajdin Hrustic	84	55		90+1
21	MF	Harib Abdalla Suhail Al Musharrkh Al Maazmi					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				90+1*
11	FW	Caio Canedo Corrêa	57			89	6	MF	Martin Boyle				
7	FW	Ali Mabkhout Al Hajeri		34		75	19	FW	Craig Goodwin				72
SUBSTITUTES													
16	FW	Ali Saleh Ali Saleh Amro				75	9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				72
15	MF	Yahia Nader Elsharif				75*	2	DF	Milos Degenek				90+1
8	MF	Majed Hassan Abdulla Al Ahmadi				88	11	MF	Awer Bul Mabil				90+1*
20	FW	Sebastián Tagliabúe				89	14	MF	Riley McGree				
10	MF	Omar Abdulrahman Al Raqi Al Amoudi				89*	21	FW	Marco Tilio				
9	MF	Bandar Mohamed Saeed Mahdi Al Ahbabi					18	MF	Kenneth Dougall				
2	DF	Khalid Hussain Hashemi					12	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
23	DF	Abdulaziz Hussain Al Balooshi					3	DF	Fran Karačić				
19	MF	Tahnoon Al Badal Al Zaabi					5	MF	Denis Genreau				
1	GK	Mohamed Mohamed Al Shamsi					17	DF	Gianni Stensness				
22	MF	Yahya Said Al Ghassani					23	DF	Joel King				
6	MF	Majid Rashid Sultan Alkhabeel Al Mehrzi					15	FW	Mitchell Duke				
Team Coach		Rodolfo Arruabarrena					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		I Igiz Tantashev (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Andrey Tsapenko (Uzbekistan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Timur Gaynulin (Uzbekistan)											

match report from Football Australia

The Socceroos have set up a winner-takes-all match-up against Peru after defeating the UAE 2-1 at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium in Doha to progress in FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ qualification.

Australia's hopes of reaching the 2022 World Cup in Qatar remain firmly alive.

A late strike by Ajdin Hrustic secured a 2-1 win over UAE and sealed the Socceroos' passage to the intercontinental play-off against Peru.

Despite suffering two injury blows late in the lead-up to the match with Trent Sainsbury and Adam Taggart both missing, Australia found a way to win.

Having debuted just last week in the friendly victory over Jordan, Graham Arnold opted for Kye Rowles to partner Bailey Wright in the centre of defence. Meanwhile, Mathew Leckie led the line in the absence of Taggart as Martin Boyle and Craig Goodwin provided support from the wings.

The Socceroos started the match in a positive fashion by dominating the share of possession and territory but they could not create an opening through the resolute UAE defence.

The first 30 minutes played out in the manner you would expect for a match with so much on the line. The UAE sat off the ball and invited the Socceroos to try and break them down but clear cut chances were scarce.

Australia whipped in a series of overhit crosses as they tried to force an opening while the UAE found space on the wings but they offered little cause for concern.

The desire not to concede an early goal was evident for both sides but the Socceroos managed to create a solid opportunity through a set piece with ten minutes remaining in the first half.

It was Goodwin who curled in a free-kick from the left side, Rowles came steaming in unmarked and rose highest but he could not make clean contact as his header skimmed wide.

In an instant, the UAE broke down the left and had a shot on target from Harib Abdalla, who shook off Nathaniel Atkinson and forced Mat Ryan into a reflex save from a tight angle.

The Socceroos shaded the possession stats 52% to UAE's 48% with two shots each as the first half ended 0-0.

UAE came out for the second half with intent as they immediately found an opening down the left. Abdalla got in behind Atkinson again and drove towards the six-yard box to force a smart save from Ryan at his near post.

Despite the UAE's positive start, Australia found the opening goal in the 52nd minute. Boyle broke down right and surged towards the line before fizzing a cross to Jackson Irvine, who neatly tucked the ball past the keeper with his right foot.

Less than three minutes later, the UAE levelled the score through Caio Canedo, who capitalised on a scramble in the box after Abdalla sent a cross towards the six-yard box.

Following the goals, the match began to open up. Irvine swung in a peach of a cross from the right to find Goodwin lurking at the back post but the Adelaide United man fired his volley just wide.

With 70 minutes gone, Hrusic found some space to drive in from the right but his curling left-footed effort flew high and wide of the top corner.

Just moments later, Arnold made his first substitution of the match. Goodwin came off for A-League Men Golden Boot winner Jamie Maclaren, who almost capitalised on a scramble in the box with immediate effect but Boyle fired just wide as he picked up the scraps.

Maclaren was in the action yet again with ten minutes to go. The Melbourne City striker found a shot from a tight angle that forced a solid save from Khalid Eisa in the UAE goal after being found by a one-two with Hrusic.

The resulting corner provided Australia with the match winning goal. Mooy's corner was headed clear to the top of the box, where Hrusic was waiting to volley a powerful strike towards goal that deflected into the back of the net to hand the Socceroos a 2-1 advantage.

Arnold brought off Leckie and Hrusic to introduce Milos Degenek and Awer Mabil as the Socceroos secured the victory and set up a winner-takes-all match-up against Peru on Tuesday, June 14 at 4am (AEST).

World Cup Intercontinental Play-off													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
13th. June 2022, 21.00			Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan, Qatar				Clear			23C air conditioned			
Peru..0 v. Australia..0 after extra time													
half time, Peru..0 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Pedro Gallese Quiróz ( c )					1	GK	Mathew Ryan ( c )				120
5	DF	Carlos Zambrano Ochandarte					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				120*
17	DF	Luis Advíncula Castrillón					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
22	DF	Alexander Callens Asin					17	DF	Kye Rowles				
6	DF	Miguel Trauco Saavedra					4	DF	Nathaniel Atkinson		12		90
10	MF	Christian Cueva Bravo				116	13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
18	MF	André Carrillo Díaz				65	22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
13	MF	Renato Tapia Cortijo					10	FW	Ajdin Hrustic				
16	MF	Christofer Gonzáles Crespo					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				87
8	MF	Sergio Peña Flores				80	6	MF	Martin Boyle				
9	FW	Gianluca Lapadula Vargas					15	FW	Mitchell Duke				69
SUBSTITUTES													
20	MF	Edison Flores Peralta		102		65	11	MF	Awer Bul Mabil				69
23	MF	Pedro Aquino Sánchez				80	9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				87
7	FW	Alex Valera Sandoval				116	3	DF	Fran Karačić				90
11	FW	Santiago Ormeño Zayas					12	GK	Andrew Redmayne				120
19	MF	Horacio Calcaterra					19	FW	Craig Goodwin				120*
12	GK	Angelo Campos Turriarte					5	MF	Denis Genreau				
3	DF	Aldo Corzo Chávez					21	FW	Marco Tilio				
14	MF	Wilder Cartagena Mendoza					23	FW	Nicholas D'Agostino				
21	GK	José Carvallo Alonso					20	DF	Trent Sainsbury				
15	DF	Miguel Araujo Blanco					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
2	DF	Luis Abram Ugarelli					18	GK	Danny Vukovic				
4	DF	Marcos López Lanfranco					14	MF	Riley McGree				
Team Coach		Ricardo Gareca Nardi					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Slavko Vinčić (Slovenia)											
Assistant Referee 1		Tomaž Klančnik (Slovenia)											
Assistant Referee 2		Andraž Kovačič (Slovenia)											
PENALTY SHOOT-OUT													
Peru..4 v. Australia..5													
9		Gianluca Lapadula	X				6		Martin Boyle	missed			
22		Alexander Callens	X				13		Aaron Mooy	X			
		Luis Advíncula	missed				19		Craig Goodwin	X			
13		Renato Tapia	X				10		Ajdin Hrustic	X			
20		Edison Flores	X				9		Jamie Maclaren	X			
7		Alex Valera	missed				11		Awer Mabil	X			

match report from Football Australia

The Socceroos have done it.

Australia have qualified for a fifth-consecutive World Cup after Andrew Redmayne's penalty shoot-out heroics sealed victory over Peru in Qatar.

After 1,008 days of World Cup qualifying and in the Socceroos' centenary year, Australia have qualified for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™.

It was a tense affair that offered little in the space of clear-cut opportunities at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium in Doha.

After a 0-0 result, it required a penalty shoot-out to split the two sides and despite Martin Boyle missing the first penalty, Redmayne stood up to seal the Socceroos' place in Group D alongside France, Denmark, and Tunisia at this year's FIFA World Cup.

It was a frenetic start to the match with a couple of early warning shots from both sides.

For the Socceroos, Mitch Duke rifled a long-range drive wide of the near post after receiving a fortuitous bounce from a Baily Wright diagonal pass while Peru surged down the right side and whipped in a cross to Gianluca Lapadula, who headed high and wide.

Australia showed great energy in the opening ten minutes by doubling up on Peru's players when out of possession and closing down the South Americans quickly.

However, just a minute later, that energy was perceived in a different way by the referee as Nathaniel Atkinson received the first yellow card of the match for holding back Christian Cueva.

Moments later, Martin Boyle showed a fantastic piece of individual brilliance by skipping past two Peruvian defenders and firing in a cross across the six-yard box which narrowly avoided Duke's head.

Peru worked themselves into the game and threatened more regularly as the first half drew to a close but the Socceroos were able to hold their own and see away any attack from those in red to keep the score level. Peru started the second half on the front foot with Australia called into action at two consecutive corners but the Socceroos continued to create more opportunities than their counterparts.

In the 52nd minute, the ball dropped to Aaron Mooy near the top of the box but he did not connect well and it sliced out for a goal kick.

With 30 minutes remaining, Peru replaced Edison Flores with André Carrillo as they looked to find their gear. Australia did well to suffocate them when they try to go forward, particularly through the hard running and tackling of both Mooy and Jackson Irvine.

Moments later, Australia made their own substitution as Graham Arnold replaced Duke with Awer Mabil. Mathew Leckie then retook his place up front, just as he did in the UAE game.

Both sides looked tired as the second half drew to a close with no clear-cut opportunities fashioned.

With ten minutes remaining, Boyle zipped onto a rare through-ball but was quickly bundled over by Peru's defenders. Ajdin Hrustic then stepped up for the subsequent free-kick but he was not able to get the dip or power required from such a distance.

Shortly after, the Socceroos fashioned one of their best opportunities of the entire match. Aziz Behich found himself in unfamiliar territory as he cut in from the left and drove towards the box, only to flash his curling shot just wide of the post.

Australia piled on the pressure late in the second half as Hrustic found himself arriving unmarked on the edge of the box but he could not beat the keeper with his tame attempt at goal.

With minutes remaining in the first half, Arnold replaced Leckie with Jamie Maclaren as he opted for an out-and-out striker to close out the match.

There was a late shout for a penalty as Irvine was bundled over in the box but it was waved away by VAR and the match ended 0-0 in regular time.

The Socceroos finished the second half with more momentum than they did at the end of the first and created more opportunities over the 90 minutes while Peru looked short of ideas as they struggled to break down Australia's defence.

To start the first period of extra time, Arnold replaced the cautioned Atkinson with Fran Karacic at right-back.

Clear-cut openings were few and far between but Peru had their first shot on target through Flores, who rifles a shot at goal from the edge of the box but it was straight at Mat Ryan.

The second half of extra time started with a flurry of chances for Peru, including their best opportunity of the game which came through Flores as he rose highest to header a shot into the post after outmuscling Behich at the back post.

With minutes remaining and a penalty shoot-out in mind, Arnold replaced Behich with Craig Goodwin and Ryan with Redmayne in goal.

The match finished 0-0 and a penalty shoot-out was needed to split the two sides and decide who would enter Group D at the World Cup finals in Qatar.

Boyle stepped up to take the first penalty and it was parried away by Pedro Gallese.

Gianluca Lapadula then put Peru in front in the shoot-out as he blasted the ball past Redmayne.

Mooy then smashed the ball into the top corner to level the scores in the shoot-out but Peru restored their lead through Alexander Callens.

Goodwin subsequently thumped the ball into the roof of the net to make it 2-2. Luis Advincula's effort then thundered off the post to make it one missed penalty each.

Hrustic then stepped up to give Australia the lead 3-2 as he wrong-footed the keeper with a smart finish to the right but Peru restored parity through Renato Tapia.

Maclaren sent Gallese the wrong way and slotted the ball into the bottom left corner while Flores scored his penalty to set up a showdown between Alex Valera and Redmayne.

And Redmayne, the substitute goalkeeper in just his third appearance from his country, was the saviour.

The players and Arnold burst into tears and Australia are through to a fifth-consecutive World Cup.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
22nd. September 2022, 20.00			Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, Queensland ( Lang Park)				Clear					25392	
Australia..1 v. New Zealand..0													
half time, Australia..1 v. New Zealand..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Mathew Ryan ( c )					1	GK	Oliver Sail				
16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				86	5	DF	Michael Boxall		62		
20	DF	Trent Sainsbury					21	DF	Timothy Payne				87
2	DF	Milos Degenek					13	DF	Liberato Cacace				71*
5	DF	Fran Karačić				70	16	DF	Dane Ingham				
13	MF	Aaron Mooy					4	DF	Nando Zen Pijnaker				
22	MF	Jackson Irvine		75		87	14	MF	Andre De Jong				71**
11	MF	Awer Bul Mabil	32			70*	8	MF	Joe Zen Robert Bell				65*
10	FW	Ajdin Hrustic				61*	7	MF	Elijah Just				65
6	MF	Martin Boyle					19	MF	Matthew Garbett				
19	FW	Adam Taggart				61	9	FW	Christopher Wood ( c )				71
SUBSTITUTES													
9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				61	20	FW	Benjamin Waine				65
14	MF	Riley McGree				61*	10	MF	Marko Seufatu Nikola Stamenic				65*
3	DF	Nathaniel Atkinson				70	17	MF	Callum McCowatt				71
7	FW	Mathew Leckie				70*	3	DF	Deklan Wynne				71*
4	DF	Joel King				86	18	MF	Cameron Howieson				71**
23	MF	Connor Metcalfe				87	6	DF	Bill Tuiloma				87
8	DF	Thomas Jok Deng					12	GK	Michael Woud				
24	MF	Cameron Devlin					2	DF	Winston Reid				
21	FW	Garang Kuol					11	FW	Alexander Greive				
12	GK	Andrew Redmayne					22	DF	Kyle Adams				
17	MF	Denis Genreau					15	MF	Benjamin Old				
18	GK	Mitchell Langerak					23	GK	Alexander Paulsen				
15	FW	Mitchell Duke					24	DF	Storm Roux				
25	FW	Marco Tilio											
26	DF	Harrison Delbridge											
Team Coach		Graham Arnold					Team Coach		Danny Hay				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Ryuji Sato (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Jun Mihara (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Kota Watanabe (Japan)											

match report from football australia

The Subway Socceroos have defeated New Zealand 1-0 in a tightly fought contest at Suncorp Stadium on Thursday night.

A moment of magic from Awer Mabil just past the half hour mark separated the two sides in Australia's farewell match that doubled as a Centenary celebration with 2022 marking 100 years since the men's national football team played its first 'A' international match in Dunedin, New Zealand.

The 27-year-old's magnificent strike was his eighth goal for his country but the first scored in Australia.

On the balance of play the Subway Socceroos controlled the majority most of the game but just lacked that polish in attack at times to kill the game off earlier.

The Kiwis arguably settled quicker in the opening exchanges with the hosts unable to break through their high press with consistency.

Jackson Irvine had the best chance for the home outfit when the ball dropped to him inside the 18-yard box though could not generate a clean strike to trouble Oliver Sail.

Moments later Mabil curled a shot which whistled wide of the far corner after cutting inside – a trademark move which foreshadowed what was to come.

In the 32nd minute, Irvine dispossessed his opponent before spraying a pass to Mabil and he did the rest.

The lively winger checked onto his favoured right side on the left flank and his shot proved too hot to handle.

New Zealand defended well in the second stanza, making it difficult for the Aussies but they did still manage to cause problems.

Substitute Riley McGree unleashed a stinging strike over the crossbar. He was one of six changes made by Head Coach Graham Arnold in the second-half.

In the dying minutes, Mathew Leckie had the best opportunity after being played through by Martin Boyle but his finish was met by a fingertip save before clipping the outside of the post.

Australia are back in action against the same opponent in Auckland on Sunday for its final match before the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™.



match report from new zealand football

An energetic All Whites side narrowly lost to Australia in Brisbane tonight, as celebrations of a century of trans-Tasman football kicked off.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the evening was that there was only one goal in a game that saw 24 shots, with the teams mustering a dozen shots each.

This attacking intent was evident in the first minutes of the game, with defender Tim Payne picking the pocket of Trent Sainsbury to crack in an early shot. While his attempt was comfortably stopped by Australian goalkeeper Maty Ryan, it demonstrated determination of the All Whites to grab this series by the scruff of the neck.

The All Whites' best chance of the half came in the 10th minute with Andre de Jong unable to convert a one-on-one, finishing on the wrong side of the goalpost after Chris Wood flicked on a long kick from Oli Sail.

A lovely turn from Liberato Cacace in the 26th minute saw the Empoli player create some space for himself on the edge of the Australian penalty area, but his shot was deflected.

Australia's goal came in the 33rd minute, through a thunderbolt from Awer Mabil, with the winger cutting inside to lash a shot past Sail from the edge of the penalty area.

The second half played out in a similar vein to the first, with both sides fashioning but ultimately not converting chances. An excellent save from Sail to deny Leckie in the 85th minute, getting down to his right to flick the ball onto the goalpost, kept the game within reach for the Kiwis.

But it wasn't to be, with the Socceroos closing out a narrow victory in the first leg of the series celebrating a century of trans-Tasman football, and rekindling the All Whites and Socceroos rivalry for the first time in over a decade.

Guus Hiddink unable to stop himself expressing admiration for the All Whites, commenting afterwards that they were "a very skilful team", and Graham Arnold admitted that his side "lost the physical battle".

"It's a local derby, you have to be physical, you have to fight," said Chris Wood after the game.

And while there were many positives to take from the game, the captain's other post-match reflections served as a reminder of the high expectations the team has for itself, and the focus they will bring back to

Aotearoa New Zealand."

It was one of those we could have done a lot better," he said. "There's a lot we have to work on for Sunday."

Bring on Eden Park.

Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
25th. September 2022, 16.00			Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand				Clear					34985	
New Zealand..0 v. Australia..2													
half time, New Zealand..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Oliver Sail					12	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
2	DF	Winston Reid ( c )				74*	26	DF	Harrison Delbridge				
21	DF	Timothy Payne				75	13	DF	Thomas Jok Deng				
6	DF	Bill Tuiloma					3	DF	Nathaniel Atkinson				63*
13	DF	Liberato Cacace		79			4	DF	Joel King				
4	DF	Nando Zen Pijnaker					14	MF	Riley McGree				
8	MF	Joe Zen Robert Bell					10	MF	Denis Genreau				63**
7	MF	Elijah Just				55	23	MF	Connor Metcalfe				83
19	MF	Matthew Garbett				74	7	FW	Mathew Leckie ( c )				
10	MF	Marko Seufatu Nikola Stamenic					15	FW	Mitchell Duke	54			63
9	FW	Christopher Wood				32	21	FW	Marco Tilio		70		73
SUBSTITUTES													
20	FW	Benjamin Waine				32	19	FW	Jason Cummings	80(pk)			63
11	FW	Alexander Greive				55	5	MF	Ryan Strain				63*
15	MF	Benjamin Old				74	17	MF	Cameron Devlin				63**
5	DF	Michael Boxall				74*	16	FW	Garang Kuol				73
24	DF	Storm Roux				75	6	MF	Keanu Kole Baccus		89		83
18	MF	Cameron Howieson					9	FW	Martin Boyle				
14	MF	Andre De Jong					22	MF	Tyrese Francois				
22	DF	Kyle Adams					18	GK	Mitchell Langerak				
23	GK	Alexander Paulsen					2	DF	Milos Degenek				
17	MF	Callum McCowatt											
12	GK	Michael Woud											
3	DF	Deklan Wynne											
16	DF	Dane Ingham											
Team Coach		Danny Hay					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Yusuke Araki (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 1		Jun Mihara (Japan)											
Assistant Referee 2		Kota Watanabe (Japan)											

match report from new zealand football

Aotearoa New Zealand bid farewell to one of the greats of New Zealand football as we celebrated a century of trans-Tasman football in a 2-0 defeat to Australia in front of a record crowd.

Captain Winston Reid comes on for his last game for the All Whites after being rested for the game in Brisbane. The football legend walked out to a rousing Eden Park reception, as 34,985 fans welcomed him back to his hometown for his final All Whites appearance.

The home of New Zealand sport was a fitting stage for one of Aotearoa New Zealand's best performers to take his final bow. And when the substitution board went up in the 72nd minute to indicate that his time on the pitch was done, Eden Park rose to a standing ovation for Reid as he left the pitch in an All Whites shirt for the final time in the 72nd minute, and he departed the pitch to handshakes from Australian head coach Graham Arnold, and a reception from his teammates and Aotearoa.

Danny Hay made several changes to the side that started in Brisbane. As well as Reid returning to the starting XI, Bill Tuiloma, Marko Stamenic also started today as Michael Boxall, Dane Ingham and Andre de Jong dropped to the bench.

Hay had to make an early, unwanted, change, however, as Chris Wood was forced off with injury in the 32nd minute, after an earlier clash, saying after the match that he was struggling to breathe due to the injury.

He was replaced by young Wellington Phoenix striker Ben Waine.

In typical trans-Tasman fashion, this set the tone for a match that became increasingly marked by its physicality. The first half didn't see many clear-cut chances for either side.

Australia took the lead early in the first half. Connor Metcalfe's pinpoint cross was converted by Mitch Duke, who split the All Whites centrebacks to head past Sail.

There was a chance for Alex Grieve to equalise in the 68th minute, but he shot straight at Andrew Redmayne. The ball fell to him a couple of yards inside the penalty area after Ben Waine's press deflected to him, but the St Mirren striker's shot went straight at Redmayne. Several minutes later Ben Waine's 71st minute cross created another opportunity, but Matt Garbett's header went over the bar, to the Torino midfielder's frustration.

Australia then won a penalty after Liberato Cacace was judged to have handled the ball in the area. Debutant Jason Cummings opened his Socceroos account, sending Sail the wrong way to double Australia's lead.

While the final result wasn't what the team hoped for in their first home game in nearly five years, the sense of occasion at Eden Park and the reception the team received left the football community in no doubt.

International football is back in Aotearoa. The All Whites have come home.

match report from football australia

An inspired second-half performance has helped Australia to a 2-0 friendly win over New Zealand at Eden Park on Sunday.

Mitch Duke scored his eighth goal for the Subway Socceroos before Jason Cummings marked his debut with a finish from the penalty spot.

After a disjointed first-half, the visitors clicked into gear in the second stanza as five substitutes featured for the national team for the first time.

Graham Arnold made 11 changes to the starting eleven that beat New Zealand 1-0 in Brisbane, opting for an experimental side which included a debut to centre-back Harrison Delbridge.

Marco Tilio received his first senior start on the wing while Thomas Deng featured for the first time since October 2018.

Riley McGree was influential throughout the first-half and despite being on the backfoot, Tilio had the best chance of the match to open the scoring but squandered his attempt from close range.

Australia came out all guns blazing after the restart, demonstrating a lot more intent and urgency going forward.

In the 54th minute, their endeavour would be rewarded with Connor Metcalfe's excellent cross met by a forceful Duke header.

Arnold then turned to his bench as Ryan Strain, Cameron Devlin and Jason Cummings all entered the fray for the maiden time as Subway Socceroos.

Ten minutes later, exciting youngster Garang Kuol was summoned becoming the sixth-youngest Australian to represent the Subway Socceroos in an international 'A' match.

And the Central Coast Mariners winger was lively too, involved in the build up to the second goal as his marauding run ended in a cut-back to McGree. His shot was saved by Oliver Sail and rebounded to Cummings, whose shot was illegally blocked by a stray Liberato Cacace arm.

The Scottish-born striker stepped up and confidently converted the ensuing penalty register his inaugural Australia appearance with a goal.

Keanu Baccus was the final fresh face introduced to the action by Arnold as Australia made it two wins from two against the All Whites, while keeping two clean sheets in the process.

World Cup Finals, Group D													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
22nd. November 2022, 22.00			Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakrah, Qatar			Clear					40875		
France..4 v. Australia..1													
half time, France..2 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
1	GK	Hugo Lloris ( c )					1	GK	Mathew Ryan ( c )				
21	DF	Lucas Hernández				13	16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
2	DF	Benjamin Marcel Pavard				89*	19	DF	Harry Souttar				
18	DF	Dayotchanculle Upamecano					4	DF	Kye Rowles				
24	DF	Ibrahima Konaté					3	DF	Nathaniel Atkinson				85*
14	MF	Adrien Rabiot-Provost	27				13	MF	Aaron Mooy		90+4		
8	MF	Aurélien Tchouaméni				77*	22	MF	Jackson Irvine		80		85
9	FW	Olivier Giroud	32, 71			89	14	MF	Riley McGree				73*
7	FW	Antoine Griezmann					7	FW	Mathew Leckie				
11	FW	Masour Ousmane Dembélé				77	15	FW	Mitchell Duke		55		56
10	FW	Kylian Mbappé	68				23	FW	Craig Goodwin	9			73
SUBSTITUTES													
22	DF	Theo Hernández				13	25	FW	Jason Cummings				56
20	FW	Kingsley Coman				77	21	FW	Garang Kuol				73
13	MF	Youssouf Fofana				77*	11	MF	Awer Bul Mabil				73*
26	FW	Marcus Thuram-Ulien				89	26	MF	Keanu Kole Baccus				85
5	DF	Jules Koundé				89*	2	DF	Milos Degenek				85*
17	DF	William Saliba					9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				
6	MF	Mattéo Guendouzi Olié					5	DF	Fran Karačić				
16	GK	Steve Mandanda Mpidi					18	GK	Danny Vukovic				
12	FW	Randal Kolo Muani					6	FW	Marco Tilio				
4	DF	Raphaël Varane					17	MF	Cameron Devlin				
25	MF	Eduardo Celmi Camavinga					24	DF	Joel King				
23	GK	Alphonse Areola					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
3	DF	Axel Disasi Mhakinis Belho					20	DF	Thomas Jok Deng				
15	MF	Jordan Veretout					10	FW	Ajdin Hrustic				
							12	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
Team Coach		Didier Deschamps					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Victor de Freitas Gomes (South Africa)											
Assistant Referee 1		Zakhele Siwela (South Africa)											
Assistant Referee 2		Souru Phatsoane (Lesotho)											

match report from footbballaustralia

Australia has gone down 4-1 to defending champions France in its opening game of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ at the Al Janoub Stadium on Wednesday morning (AEDT).

The Socceroos toiled and took a shock lead through Craig Goodwin but from there it was virtually one-way traffic with France's undeniable quality evident for all to see.

Olivier Giroud scored a brace while Adrien Rabiot and Kylian Mbappe were also on target for Les Bleus.

Graham Arnold named a strong starting line-up for the opening group clash. Captain Mat Ryan was in goal with a back-four in front of him containing three FIFA World Cup debutants in Nathaniel Atkinson, Kye Rowles and Harry Souttar, as well as the experienced Aziz Behich.

Aaron Mooy and Jackson Irvine protected the defence in a double pivot with Riley McGree operating as the number 10. In attack, Mitch Duke was flanked by Goodwin and Mathew Leckie.

The Socceroos made the perfect start inside nine minutes to put the French behind, something the reigning champions have not experienced at this major tournament since 2014.

Souttar's sweeping pass was controlled by Leckie and the winger whipped a low cross to the far post which Goodwin emphatically finished into the top corner for his second goal for his country.

That goal was the Socceroos' fastest at a FIFA World Cup and first in open play since Tim Cahill's volley against the Netherlands in 2014.

In the build-up to the goal Lucas Hernandez appeared to sustain a knee injury and was replaced by his brother Theo.

Mitch Duke let fly from outside of the box and his long-range strike whistled past the post in a rare foray forward for the Green and Gold.

However, within a five-minute period Les Bleus overturned the deficit and their sustained pressure eventually paid off.

Rabiot first equalised off the second phase of a corner in the 27th minute, guiding his header home off Theo Hernandez's incisive delivery.

A mistake at the back then proved costly, allowing Giroud the simplest of finishes into an empty net, with Rabiot this time turning provider from a deft flick from Mbappe.

Mbappe should have made it 3-1 on the stroke of half-time buy volleyed over the bar inside the six-yard box from.

But when Australia did look to get in behind of the French defence, they did appear vulnerable at times.

Irvine, on his 50th Socceroos appearance, saw a looping header clip the outside of the upright moments later from McGree's cross. It looked to happen in slow motion with Hugo Lloris rooted to his spot.

The second-half began in a similar fashion to the first '45 with Didier Deschamps' side dominating and applying prolonged spells of pressure. Australia's rearguard was doing its best to contain the free-flowing attacking movement. This was demonstrated none more so than Rowles, who executed a perfect challenge to thwart Mbappe. A desperate Behich denied Antoine Griezmann with a goal-line clearance but it mattered little with France firing two-quick goals soon after. The Aussie's resistance came unstuck again when Mbappe made it 3-1, nodding in Ousmane Dembele's cross in off the post on 68 minutes. Three minutes later Giroud netted his second with a forceful header after a brilliant run and cross to the byline by Mbappe. Arnold turned to Awer Mabil and Garang Kuol to inject a spark and some energy into the side. However, by then the damage was done in a game which France took full control of in the second stanza. The Socceroos will look to regroup ahead of their match against Tunisia on Saturday night (AEDT)

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™

Wednesday, 23 November 2022 (AEDT)

France 4 (Rabiot 27', Giroud 32', 71', Mbappe 68') Australia 1 (Goodwin 9')

Al Janoub Stadium

World Cup Finals, Group D													
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance	
26th. November 2022, 13.00			Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakrah, Qatar				Clear					41823	
Tunisia..0 v. Australia..1													
half time, Tunisia..0 v. Australia..1													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
16	GK	Aymen Dahmen					1	GK	Mathew Ryan ( c )				
24	DF	Ali El Abdi		64			16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
20	DF	Mohamed Dräger				46	19	DF	Harry Souttar				
4	DF	Yassine Meriah					5	DF	Fran Karačić				75
6	DF	Dylan Bronn				73	4	DF	Kye Rowles				
3	DF	Montassar Talbi					13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
23	MF	Naim Sliiti					22	MF	Jackson Irvine				
17	MF	Ellyes Skhiri					14	MF	Riley McGree				64*
14	MF	Aïssa Laïdouni		26		67	7	FW	Mathew Leckie				85*
7	FW	Youssef Msakni ( c )					15	FW	Mitchell Duke	23			64
9	FW	Issam Jebali				73*	23	FW	Craig Goodwin				85
SUBSTITUTES													
13	MF	Ferjani Sassi		90+3		46	9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				64
10	FW	Wahbi Khazri				67	10	FW	Ajdin Hrustic				64*
21	DF	Wajdi Kechrida				73	2	DF	Milos Degenek				75
11	FW	Taha Khenissi				73*	11	MF	Awer Bul Mabil				85
26	GK	Mouez Hassen					26	MF	Keanu Kole Baccus				85*
22	GK	Bechir Ben Saïd					17	MF	Cameron Devlin				
25	MF	Anis Ben Slimane					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
12	DF	Ali Maâloul					25	FW	Jason Cummings				
5	MF	Nader Ghandri					20	DF	Thomas Jok Deng				
19	FW	Seifeddine Jaziri					12	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
8	MF	Hannibal Mejbri					24	DF	Joel King				
2	DF	Bilel Ifa					18	GK	Danny Vukovic				
15	MF	Mohamed Ben Romdhane					21	FW	Garang Kuol				
1	GK	Aymen Balbouli					6	FW	Marco Tilio				
18	MF	Ghaylène Chaalali											
Team Coach		Jalel Kadri					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Daniel Siebert (Germany)											
Assistant Referee 1		Jan Seidel (Germany)											
Assistant Referee 2		Rafael Foltyn (Germany)											

match report from footbballaustralia

A spirited Australia has secured a famous 1-0 win over Tunisia in its second match of Group D at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ on Saturday night (AEDT), keeping alive hopes of progressing to the knockout stages. Mitch Duke's sensational first-half header proved the difference as the Socceroos bossed the opening 45 minutes, before resolutely holding off a determined Tunisia in the second stanza.

The result is just Australia's third victory at the FIFA World Cup and first since 2010 against Serbia.

The Aussies also kept their first clean sheet in more than 48 years after achieving the feat during their inaugural appearance in 1974.

Graham Arnold made just the solitary change to his starting line-up, which was enforced, after Nathaniel Atkinson sustained an ankle knock against France with Fran Karacic a natural replacement at right-back.

Australia began the match with the ascendancy, dominating possession and delivered several crosses into the area which the Tunisian back three of Dylan Bronn, Yassine Meriah and Montassar Talbi dealt with relative ease.

Nevertheless, Craig Goodwin and Mathew Leckie were lively and provided excellent width to stretch the Tunisians.

The Aussies took a deserved lead on 23 minutes, employing the same modus operandi that had forced Tunisia on the backfoot, albeit with a slice of luck.

Goodwin's cross took a wicked deflection, but Duke did excellently to adjust his body and expertly flick his header beyond Aymen Dahmen, becoming Australia's eighth goal-scorer at the FIFA World Cup.

The Green and Gold may have been substantially outnumbered in the crowd, but on the pitch it was Arnold's men that looked in complete control and took the sting out of them.

The Socceroos won the midfield and overall physical battle, winning challenges, creating chances, and brought a real sense of urgency and dynamism.

However, there were two heart in the mouth moments to end the half. Harry Souttar committed a desperate block to deny Mohamed Drager before captain Youssef Msakni squandered a golden chance to draw the Eagles of Carthage level, when he put wide Issam Jebali's low cross from close range.

It meant Australia went into the half-time break with a lead for the first time ever at the major tournament.

Tunisia showed more desire in the second-half without ever troubling Australia.

Arnold turned to his bench just past the hour mark, introducing Ajdin Hrustic and Jamie Maclaren for their FIFA World Cup debuts with Riley McGree and Duke making way. Maclaren was close to setting up City teammate Leckie for a tap-in when his lowly-driven cross was just beyond the outstretched reach of the winger. Tunisia applied more pressure as the match wore on, but for every question thrown, Australia always had an answer with Harry Souttar defending admirably, executing last-ditch recovery tackles. It was a fearless approach from the Socceroos, who on the balance of play, warranted their win and now sets up a mouth-watering tie against Denmark on Matchday 3.

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™  
Saturday, 26 November 2022 (AEDT)  
Tunisia 0 Australia 1 (Duke 23')  
Al Janoub Stadium

World Cup Finals, Group D														
Date & Time			Venue				Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
30th. November 2022, 18.00			Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakrah, Qatar				Hot and clear					41232		
Denmark..0 v. Australia..1														
half time, Denmark..0 v. Australia..0														
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	
START LIST														
1	GK	Kasper Schmeichel					1	GK	Mathew Ryan ( c )					
6	DF	Andreas Christensen					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich		4			
2	DF	Joachim Andersen					2	DF	Milos Degenek		57			
13	DF	Rasmus Kristensen				46	19	DF	Harry Souttar					
5	DF	Joakim Møhle Pedersen				70	4	DF	Kye Rowles					
10	MF	Christian Dannemann Eriksen ( c )					13	MF	Aaron Mooy					
23	MF	Pierre-Emile Kordt Højbjerg					22	MF	Jackson Irvine					
7	MF	Mathias Jensen				59*	14	MF	Riley McGree				74	
25	MF	Jesper Grøenge Lindstrøm					7	FW	Mathew Leckie	60			89	
9	FW	Martin Christensen Braithwaite				59	15	FW	Mitchell Duke				82	
11	FW	Andreas Skov Olsen				69	23	FW	Craig Goodwin				46	
SUBSTITUTES														
26	DF	Alexander Hartmann Bah				46	26	MF	Keanu Kole Baccus				46	
12	FW	Kasper Dolberg Rasmussen				59	8	DF	Bailey Wright				74	
14	MF	Mikkel Krogh Damsgaard				59*	9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				82	
24	FW	Robert Faxe Skov		75		69	10	FW	Ajdin Hrustic				89	
21	FW	Andreas Cornelius				70	12	GK	Andrew Redmayne					
4	DF	Simon Thorup Kjær					24	DF	Joel King					
20	FW	Yussuf Poulsen					3	DF	Nathaniel Atkinson					
16	GK	Oliver Christensen					11	MF	Awer Bul Mabil					
3	DF	Victor Nelsson					17	MF	Cameron Devlin					
19	FW	Jonas Older Wind					25	FW	Jason Cummings					
22	GK	Frederik Riis Rønnow					5	DF	Fran Karačić					
17	DF	Jens Stryger Larsen					6	FW	Marco Tilio					
15	MF	Christian Thers Nørgaard					18	GK	Danny Vukovic					
18	MF	Daniel Wass					20	DF	Thomas Jok Deng					
							21	FW	Garang Kuol					
Team Coach		Kasper Hjulmand					Team Coach		Graham Arnold					
Team Manager							Team Manager							
Referee		Mustapha Ghorbal (Algeria)												
Assistant Referee 1		Mokrane Gourari (Algeria)												
Assistant Referee 2		Abdelhak Etchiali (Algeria)												

match report from footballestralia

The Socceroos have made history, advancing to the Round of 16 of the FIFA World Cup for the second time in Australian football history with a plucky 1-0 triumph over Denmark at Al Janoub Stadium on Thursday morning (AEDT).

Mathew Leckie's solitary goal on the hour mark sealed the Socceroos' passage to the last 16 for the first time since 2006, with an incredible six points - our highest-ever points tally - to finish second behind France on goal difference in Group D.

With France losing 1-0 to Tunisia, the Socceroos had to win to qualify for the knockout stages.

It is also the first instance Australia has won consecutive games at the FIFA World Cup.

Going into the match Australia controlled its destiny, and instead of relying on other results or playing for the draw, the Aussies ultimately took matters into their own hands.

Graham Arnold made just the one personnel change to the starting XI with Milos Degenek replacing Fran Karacic at right-back.

Meanwhile, Mathew Ryan and Leckie joined Tim Cahill and Mark Bresciano on a record-equalling ninth FIFA World Cup appearance with the Socceroos.

Ryan produced a sharp save at his near post to tip over Mathias Jensen's stinging strike as Denmark began the contest on the front foot.

Australia had to absorb a substantial amount of pressure from the 10th-ranked nation, though did have a handful of opportunities to break quickly but lacked quality on the final pass.

Riley McGree tried a speculative shot on the half-volley from a header down by Mitch Duke, however it was straight at Kasper Schmeichel.

Denmark appeared most threatening during the first half when they got in behind the Socceroos full-backs, though their final crosses were mostly dealt with by either Ryan or the two centre-backs in Harry Souttar and Kye Rowles.

For all the pressure Australia endured, they went into the interval level at 0-0.

Arnold introduced Keanu Baccus at half-time at the expense of Craig Goodwin in a tactical move which forced McGree into a wider position.

The Danes brought in Benfica's Alexander Bah for Rasmus Kristensen in a like-for-like replacement at right-back.

Australia made a bright start to begin the half with Jackson Irvine firing over his snapshot from McGree's cross, before the match mirrored a very similar pattern to the first 45 with Denmark controlling possession.



With Tunisia having just scored against France in the other group game, Australia needed to score, and they did just that through a blistering counter-attack. In the 60th minute, Leckie became the ninth Australian to hit the back of the net at the FIFA World Cup with a superb individual run. Souttar found Duke, who found McGree and he released the 31-year-old, who still had plenty of work to do. The winger twisted and turned Joakim Maehle inside out before clinically seeing his left footed finish nestle into the bottom corner for his maiden FIFA World Cup goal. Bailey Wright was given his debut at the major tournament with Arnold looking to sure things up defensively, taking off McGree. Jamie Maclaren was then summoned after another tireless shift from Duke. The Aussies negotiated the final stages expertly, with Denmark never really looking like scoring. Once the final whistle blew, scenes of utter jubilation ensued on the pitch, in the stands and back home. The Green and Gold will face the winner of Group C in Argentina in the last 16 of the competition.

Thursday, 1 December 2022 (AEDT)  
Australia 1 (Leckie 60') Denmark 0  
Al Janoub Stadium

World Cup Finals, Round of 16													
Date & Time			Venue			Weather			Temperature		Attendance		
3rd. December 2022, 22.00			Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan, Qatar			Clear					45032		
Argentina..2 v. Australia..1													
half time, Argentina..1 v. Australia..0													
No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution	No.	Position	Name	Goal (minute)	Yellow Card	Red Card	Time of substitution
START LIST													
23	GK	Damián Emiliano Martínez Romero					1	GK	Mathew Ryan ( c )				
19	DF	Nicolás Otamendi					16	DF	Aziz Eraltay Behich				
8	DF	Marcos Acuña				72	2	DF	Milos Degenek		38		72
26	DF	Nahuel Molina Lucero				80*	19	DF	Harry Souttar				
13	DF	Cristian Romero					4	DF	Kye Rowles				
17	MF	Alejandro "Papu" Gómez Villaverde				50	13	MF	Aaron Mooy				
7	MF	Rodrigo De Paul					22	MF	Jackson Irvine		15		
20	MF	Alexis MacAllister				80	14	MF	Riley McGree				58
24	MF	Enzo Fernández	77(og)				26	MF	Keanu Kole Baccus				58*
10	FW	Lionel Messi Cuccittini	35				7	FW	Mathew Leckie				72**
9	FW	Julián Álvarez	57			71	15	FW	Mitchell Duke				72*
SUBSTITUTES													
25	DF	Lisandro Martínez				50	23	FW	Craig Goodwin				58
22	FW	Lautaro Martínez				71	10	FW	Ajdin Hrustic				58*
3	DF	Nicolás Tagliafico				72	5	DF	Fran Karačić				72
4	DF	Gonzalo Montiel				80	9	FW	Jamie Maclaren				72*
14	MF	Exequiel Palacios				80*	21	FW	Garang Kuol				72**
1	GK	Franco Armani					6	FW	Marco Tilio				
6	DF	Germán Pezzella					12	GK	Andrew Redmayne				
5	MF	Leandro Paredes					18	GK	Danny Vukovic				
21	FW	Paulo Dybala					8	DF	Bailey Wright				
2	DF	Juan Foyth					17	MF	Cameron Devlin				
16	MF	Thiago Almada					3	DF	Nathaniel Atkinson				
15	FW	Ángel Correa Martínez					25	FW	Jason Cummings				
11	MF	Ángel Di María					11	MF	Awer Bul Mabil				
18	MF	Guido Rodríguez					24	DF	Joel King				
12	GK	Gerónimo Rulli					20	DF	Thomas Jok Deng				
Team Coach		Lionel Scaloni					Team Coach		Graham Arnold				
Team Manager							Team Manager						
Referee		Szymon Marciniak (Poland)											
Assistant Referee 1		Pawel Sokolnicki (Poland)											
Assistant Referee 2		Tomasz Listkiewicz (Poland)											

match report from footbballaustralia

Australia's incredible FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ has ended after falling 2-1 to Argentina in the Round of 16 at the Ahmad bin Ali Stadium on Sunday morning (AEDT).

Lionel Messi and Julian Alvarez scored a goal each for the Argentines to put them in a strong position.

But Australia clawed its way back though, after Craig Goodwin's strike deflected off Enzo Fernandez which went down as an own goal in the 77th minute.

However, it was not enough as a valiant Green and Gold outfit exited the tournament, in what is their most successful appearance to date.

Graham Arnold made just the solitary change to his starting line-up which defeated Denmark. In fact it was the XI that began the second-half, with Keanu Baccus making his maiden Socceroos start, coming in for

Craig Goodwin which pushed Riley McGree onto the wing.

Mat Ryan and Mathew Leckie also became the first Australians to register 10 appearances at the FIFA World Cup, surpassing Tim Cahill and Mark Bresciano.

Australia began in a compact 4-4-2 formation, with two low blocks and forced to defend quite deep with La Albiceleste controlling the majority of possession.

It took until the 17th minute for Argentina to generate a shot at goal, and it was Papu Gomez who blazed miles wide of the target from outside the box.

Having created virtually little until that point, that would change in the 35th minute when Messi struck with a composed finish as Australia conceded the opening goal for the maiden time this tournament.

Alexis Mac Allister threaded a pass into Nicolas Otamendi off a recycled free-kick and the centre-back's touch opened the angle for the Argentine legend to net his first FIFA World Cup knockout goal and third in this year's tournament.

As Argentina remained patient with the ball, Australia gradually saw more possession higher up the field but failed to test goalkeeper Emi Martinez. Alvarez made it 2-0 in the 57th minute, pouncing on the loose ball as Rodrigo De Paul dispossessed Ryan, and his finish trickled into an empty. Goodwin and Ajdin Hrustic were immediately introduced for Riley McGree and Keanu Baccus, having been ready and waiting on the sideline before the concession. Arnold emptied his bench, making a triple substitution in the 72nd as Garang Kuol, Jamie Maclaren and Fran Karacic came on for Mitch Duke, Leckie and Milos Degenek. From out of absolutely nothing Goodwin gave Australia a spark when his strike from Otamendi's block took a wicked deflection, leaving Martinez stranded. It was officially awarded as an own goal to Enzo Fernandez which was also happened to be Australia's inaugural goal scored in the knockout stages in the history of the competition. The moment injected life into the Socceroos and they had the South Americans on the back foot. Aziz Behich went on a mazy run into the box and was so close from getting a clear shot away before his attempt was blocked by Lisandro Martinez. With the game stretched, Lautaro Martinez then curled his effort wide of the top corner after Messi drew three defenders before finding the unmarked Inter Milan striker. Ryan also produced a pair of strong saves with the Aussies throwing numbers forward. In the last seconds of the game, Kuol controlled Goodwin's cross and managed to turn and shoot but a desperate Martinez smothered the shot. Australia's FIFA World Cup ended but they did the nation proud with a gallant performance, pushing the Albiceleste all the way to the end.